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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XI.—NO. 6. WEEKLY EDITION. DECEMBER 20, 1873.

1874 - 1874

The Pittsburgh

COMMERCIAL,

DAILY AND WEEKLY

LEADING

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WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 12, 1873.

Four Millions for the Navy.

The House passed with much unanimity, this afternoon, an appropriation of four millions for the Navy Department. The amount asked for by the Secretary was five millions, but the Committee reduced the amount to four millions because, in its opinion, the emergency had in a measure passed away. During the discussion on the bill, Sunset Cox cavorted around in his usual excitable style and indulged in personal allusions which brought on some of the Republican members. For a while things looked a little ugly, but finally calmed down.

West Virginia Election Contests.

The Committee on Elections this morning held a lengthy session in considering the West Virginia contested election cases. Mr. Shellabarger, of Ohio, represented the Republican contestants, and Mr. Paine, of Wisconsin, the Democratic. The committee hope to be able to arrive at a conclusion on the subject next week. The Committee on Roads and Canals have decided to postpone the consideration of bills before them on the subject of internal improvements, until the constitutional powers of Congress in the premises are more definitely settled.

Repeal of Bankrupt Law.

The House Committee on the Judiciary has by a majority vote, agreed to report in favor o, absolutely repealing the bankrupt law. There is much opposition to this, however, in both Houses, although it seems certain that if not repealed, the law will be substantially modified.

Question of Additional Taxation.

The Committee on Ways and Means were very much surprised, to-day, to receive the letter from the Secretary of the Treasury asking additional taxation. The committee had intended to call in a body on the Secretary to-morrow, as is the custom at the beginning of a new Congress, and confer with him on the condition of the national finances. The Secretary, it seems, was either ignorant of this custom or was unwilling to wait, and sent in his letter to the chairman of the committee enclosing the draft of a bill covering his recommendation. In conversation to-night, the Secretary remarked that he was unable to perceive how his letter could have been a surprise to the committee, as he had prepared the way for it in his report sent in at the opening of the session, in which he indicated that there was not a revival of business at an early day, and a corresponding increase in the receipts, it would be necessary to levy additional taxes. The Secretary further said that he had already, in order to meet the current expenses of the Government, been compelled to draw another million to-morrow. The Committee on Ways and Means, after meeting to-day, discussed at some length the subject, and decided that they would be in no hurry to take action on the bill sent to them by the Secretary, but decided to address him a letter requesting a statement as to the cause of the deficit in the estimates, and to furnish the committee with an estimate of the probable falling off in the revenue for the entire fiscal year. The Secretary hoped to have action on the bill before the holidays, but from expressions of members of the committee to-night, it is probable he will be disappointed. Members of the committee seem to look upon the present as an inopportune time to increase taxation, and think that some measure tending to improve the financial condition, would be more proper. Numerous telegrams have been received here this afternoon from large cities evincing much anxiety in business circles on the subject. The Committee on Ways and Means, will, to-morrow, call on the President, and will afterwards proceed to the Treasury Department to see Secretary Richardson.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 14, 1873.

The Transportation Meeting.

The meeting held last night to consider the question of cheap transportion, was attended by members without distinction of party. A bill will be reported, after the holidays, which will satisfy the demands of the grangers. The preamble will affirm the constitutional right of Congress to authorize the construction of transportation lines through the States.

Increase in Pensions.

A bill has been prepared in accordance with the recommendation of Secretary Richardson that it will be necessary to devise means to increase the revenue.

Two Prospective Senators.

Reagan, of Texas, and Bocock, of Virginia, who have just had their disabilities removed, are anxious to return to the United States Senate. The legislatures of their respective States will in a few weeks be called on to elect Senators to succeed Messrs. Flanagan and Lewis, and the names will now be presented by their friends for the positions.

Treaties of a Century.

The Department of State has just completed a revised edition of Treaties and Conventions concluded between the United States of America and other powers since July 4, 1776, to which is appended valuable notes by Assistant Secretary of State Davis, with some references to negotiations preceding them, to the executive, legislative or judicial consideration of them, and to the causes of the abrogation of some of them. These notes, as well as the official publication of treaties and conventions themselves, will constitute a very important addition to the diplomatic literature of the United States, hitherto in a very confused shape. Mr. Davis has bestowed great care upon these notes, and they are accompanied by citations from the numerous official diplomatic publications. The notes also refer to many documents in the negotiations which preceded the political treaties of the United States as may be necessary to a comprehension of the questions there determined. They show well by a coincidence, part we have taken as a nation in advancing the standard of international law, by infusing into it a degree of liberality consonant with the spirit of American idea. The notes are followed by analytical and synoptical indexes of invaluable assistance for reference.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 15, 1873.

Increase of Taxation.

The temper of the House is by no means favorable to an increase of taxation; and to obviate, if practicable, any such measure, the Committee on Appropriations, at their session this morning, agreed to the resolution, which was subsequently reported and adopted in the House, calling on the President to direct the heads of the various executive departments to cut down their estimates to the lowest possible figure. The estimates for 1874, in round numbers, were three hundred and eight millions; and the appropriations two millions less. The estimates for 1875 are three hundred and nineteen millions, making an increase of seven millions. One hundred and twenty-five millions of the amount is for the Treasury Department alone. The State Department estimates are double these for 1874. The net receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875, were three hundred and fourteen millions, and the actual expenses, two hundred and seventy millions six hundred thousand, an excess of forty-three millions four hundred thousand. The decline in revenue will more than offset this. The increase of the debt for December has already reached five millions, and will be likely to reach ten millions for the full month.

Assignment of Bills.

The various appropriation bills in the House have been assigned as follows: Laoghridge, Parker and Hancock, the Indian Appropriation bill; O'Neil, Pension; Swann, Consular and Diplomatic; Starkweather, Fortifications; Marshal, Military Academy; Foster, Postal Service; White, the Army; and Hale, the Navy. The deficiency, sundry civil, and the legislative, executive, and judicial bills were not assigned, but the chairman, General Garfield, will have charge of the latter and mainly prepare it.

Compensation of Members.

The Salary Committee have agreed upon five thousand five hundred dollars and actual expense in going and returning from Congress, as the compensation of members. The attempt to call up the bill was defeated by the House to-day.

Pinchback vs. McMillan.

The Pinchback-McMillan case was reported to the Senate to-day, the Committee stating that they were equally divided. Morton, Logan, Anthony and Mitchell are in favor of Pinchback, and Carpenter, Alcorn, Hamilton and Saulsbury are for McMillan. Mr. Sumner has never attended any of the meetings of the committee. The committee are anxious to secure action before the holidays, and Morton will make an effort to secure a night session. Mr. West threatens to oppose a holiday recess if no action be taken. His opposition, however, does not amount to anything. The Secretary of the Navy was in the Senate to-day, urging the immediate passage of the four-million bill. An effort will be made also to secure immediate action on the bill authorizing the organization of National banks without circulation.

Case of Judge Williams.

The case of Attorney General Williams was again before the Senate in Executive session to-day. Greater opposition was manifested than was anticipated by the friends of Mr. Williams. It is probable that the case will be protracted some time longer—into January, it is said. There is every indication that the House will amend the bankrupt act.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 15, 1873.

INCREASE OF THE DEBT.

The Secretary, to-day, after the necessary examination, ascertained that the public debt has increased since the 1st instant five million dollars.

LETTER FROM SECRETARY RICHARDSON TO MR. DAWES—INCREASED TAXATION DISCUSSED AND EXPLAINED.

The Secretary of the Treasury has written the following letter to Mr. Dawes, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, December 12th, 1873.

Dear Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, transmitting the resolution of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, and asking the Secretary of the Treasury to give his reasons in writing for an increase in taxation, and why he has selected the articles named in his communication, as the proper objects for increased taxation, and that he inform the committee specifically as to expenditures and the condition of the revenue which renders the proposed increase necessary. In the report which, in accordance with law, I had the honor recently to submit to Congress, I used the following language: 'Should there not be a revival of business at an early day, and an increase in receipts over those o the past two and a half months, additional means will be required to meet expenses. Should such be the case, I recommend additional taxation, judiciously laid so as to be the least burden upon people and business of the country, rather than a resort to borrowing money and increasing the public debt." It is on the grounds here generally stated, that I suggested increased taxation. The receipts from customs and internal taxes have not materially increased, and it is apparent that no considerable augmentation of these receipts is soon to be expected under the law now existing. The public debt was increased by demands which could not be avoided during the month of November, to the extent of over $5,000,000, and it is apparent that it will be still further increased during the current month by many millions. While the coin receipts are but little more than sufficient to pay the interest on the public debt and other coin expenditures, it will not be prudent to sell gold to increase the supply of currency. The current expenses of the Government have already consumed about $18,000,000 of what has been called the reserve, and there remains only about $28,000,000 which can be used before the extreme limit of the issue of United States notes authorized by law, will be reached. The public credit can only be maintained by keeping the receipts of the treasury fully up to the expenditures for ordinary expenses, for interest on the public debt and for the purchase of bonds for the sinking fund as at present provided by law. It is manifestly the true policy, in view of maintaining that credit, so to levy taxes as to make it certain that the required amount will be raised with a probability of some surplus revenue, rather than to incur any risk of a deficiency which would make it necessary to borrow money and thereby increase the debt. In selecting tea and coffee for taxation I am induced by the consideration that taxes on those articles are easily collected and are not oppressive to consumers. In selecting spirits, tobacco, gas, railway and steamboat receipts, express, insurance and telegraph companies, as subjects of taxation, I am governed principally by the reasons expressed by the Committee on Internal Revenue in their letter already forwarded to the committee in the following words: "In selecting sources for possible taxation, we have taken those which would give the revenue probably needed without any material increase to the present force, or any amendment of the present system, considering that it is wise to get public revenue with as little interference as possible with the general business of the country, and that the tax gatherer should affect the people as slightly as practicable." I have presented bills for increased taxation to the committee thus early that the subject may at once be called to the attention of Congress, and passed at an early day, as may be deemed expellient. It should be taken into account that the effect of any law which may be enacted to increase taxation will not be fully appear for several months after its passage, and that in the apparent disposition among the people to reduce expenditures, the rates which may be fixed will produce the same amount of revenue as would accrue under different circumstances.

I have honor to be, very respectfully,

(Signed) RICHARD RICHARDSON, Secretary.

NOMINATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT.

The President sent the following nominations to the Senate: John L. Pennington, of Alabama, to be Governor of Dakota; Hiram Idings, Pension Agent at Fort Wayne, Indiana; Oscar Whitney, Secretary Dakota Territory; Postmaster, Charles J. Ricks, Massillon, Ohio; J. G. Pole, Collector of Customs for the District of Sandusky, Ohio; Robert W. Hughes, District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia; Hiram Stone, Marshal for Dakota, and W. H. Wheeler, Marshal for Montana.

MR. KELLY'S VIEWS ON TAXATION.

The House Committee on Ways and Means, at a meeting yesterday, allotted their work among the different members. Mr. Kelly submitted a resolution, which he said he would introduce in the House:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this House that taxes which now burden the people should not be increased, but that extraordinary means, if any be required for the support of the Government during the temporary paralysis of the industries of country, now prevailing, should be obtained on temporary loan on bonds bearing a low rate interest, in ethic the interest be payable in United States notes,"

THE VIRGINIUS AND PRISONERS.

The Canandaigua, Juniata and Kansas at last accounts were at Santiago de Cuba, and it is understood that these vessels will receive the passengers and crew of the Virginius, while the vessel will be delivered under bond at Bahia Honda, although nothing trustworthy on this point can now be obtained from official sources. To-morrow is the time fixed for the consummation of the agreement.

SUPREME COURT DECISION—POWER OF A STATE TO TAX RAILROADS.

The Supreme Court to-day decided the case of the Union Pacific Railroad against Pennsinton, treasurer of Lincoln County, Nebraska, on an appeal from the Circuit Court of that State. Judge Strong delivered the opinion of the Court, holding that the taxing power of a State is an attribute of sovereignty; that it exists independently of the constitution of the United States and is not derived from that instrument; and that it may be exercised to an unlimited extent on all property, business and vocations existing or carried on within the boundaries of the State, except so far as it has been surrendered to the Federal Government, either expressly or by necessary implication. The Court, therefore, sustains the right of the State of Nebraska to tax the property of the Union Pacific Railroad within the boundaries of said State. Judge Bradley read a dissenting opinion, holding that the tax was an unlawful interference with the instrumentalities created by the National Government in carrying out the objects and powers conferred on it by the Constitution. Judge Field concurred in opinion with Judge Bradley. Judge Hunt dissented from the opinion of the Court. Judge Swayne give his views in his own way, but concurred in the conclusion reached by the majority of the Court.

STEUBENVILLE.

River Higher Yesterday than Since 1863—Railroad Passengers Transferred in Boats—Steamers Delayed—No Great Damage Done.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

STEUBENVILLE, O., December 15, 1873.

The river at this point is now about thirty-four feet and falling slowly. The towboats I. N. Phillips, Sam Clarke and Tiger, with tows of coal, are laid up here waiting for lower water. The Wheeling packet Forest City has been transferring passengers for the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railway Company, between Steubenville and Lagrange, to-day, the track being covered with water. Trains will probably be running on time to-morrow. Last night the water reached the highest point since 1869. Very little damage was done in this neighborhood. At Wellsburg, West Virginia, the water reached the curbstones on Main street, but no serious damage is reported. Warrentown, Ohio, was badly flooded, but no lives were lost, and it is thought the damage to property will not be very great.

HAVANA.

A Mob in Havana—Dissatisfaction with the Captain General—Delivery of the Virginius Unpopular—Virginius at Bahia Honda—Prisoners to Arrive There To-day—Havana is Tranquil.

HAVANA, December 14.—The man-of-war Isabel La Catolica returned to this port yesterday. She left the Virginius in charge of a Spanish gun boat at Bahia Honda. The Spanish steamer Bazan has sailed from Santiago for Bahia Honda with the Virginius prisoners on board, and is expected to arrive at the latter place to-morrow. It has been arranged that the Virginius and her surviving passengers and crew shall be delivered to the Americans at the same time in the harbor of Bahia Honda. Havana remains tranquil. Two battalions of volunteers are on duty for the preservation of order, and patrols were established throughout the city last night. The ringleader of the demonstrations on Friday night has been arrested, and will be tried by court-martial. Captain General Jovellar, in a speech to the volunteers to-day, declared that he knew all good citizens sided with him, and would assist in putting down any disturbance.

FORT WAYNE.

Boy Run Over by a Railroad Train—Water Subsiding.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, December 15, 1873.

Yesterday evening, Willie Porter, aged fifteen, in attempting to cross the railroad track between two cars while the train was in motion, fell, and the wheels passed over one leg, making amputation necessary, and endangering his life.

The high water is going down, and the weather being clear, no further danger is apprehended from that quarter.

The Great Flood.

THE RIVERS ON A FROLIC

Fort Wayne.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, December 13, 1873.

The steady rain last week is swelling the three rivers and canal centering in this city to such an extent as to become alarming. The whole valley for half a mile on each side of the river bank is completely flooded, the water being level with the branches of large trees and continuing to rise rapidly. For miles through the country the water is carrying away fences. Two breaks occurred in the canal this morning. The breaks in the canal are being repaired as fast as large gangs of men can do it. It has ceased raining, and the weather is colder. No further damage is anticipated. In the western part of the city, on low lands, the water has overspread the territory, interfering with families on the ground floors, compelling them to emigrate to second floors.

Columbus.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

COLUMBUS, O., December 13, 1873.

The rain storm was general on the line of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad, but no damage is done yet. Streams are all overflowing and the tracks were under water for a short time. The canal at Lock 17 has given way. Some damage is done to the crops and private residences by being flooded.

Newcomerstown, Ohio.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

NEWCOMERSTOWN, O., December 13, 1873.

The Tuscarawas river is rising fast. The extent of the damage cannot be ascertained at this time. Buckhorn creek, on the line of the Marietta, Parkersburg and Columbus Railroad, has overflowed the track for several miles. No trains to-day.

Hanover, Ohio.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HANOVER, O., December 13, 1873.

The storm has caused very high water, sweeping away a great quantity of grain, fencing and some stock. A number of houses were flooded, compelling families to vacate.

Steubenville.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

STEUBENVILLE, O., December 13, 1873.

The Ohio is rising fast. The track of the Cleveland and Pittsburgh road will be under water by dark. No other damage by the rain storm.

Newark, Ohio.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

NEWARK, O., December 13, 1873.

The Licking is higher than it has been for some years. In the lower part of the city houses are flooded, and the new foundry of Thomas and Craberer was also badly flooded. Last night's trains are still detained five miles from here on account of high water.

Parkers City.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

PARKERS CITY, PA., December 13, 1873.

The river at Parker rose until 3 P. M., to-day, with about twenty-six feet of water in the channel. At 5 P. M. it had fallen ten inches, and at 6 o'clock twelve inches. Nearly every office and store on Parker Landing flats is flooded. The water is running over the window-sills of the Mansion House. All hands have moved up stairs. A great deal of lumber is lost. Fuller's office is washed away. The amount of damage to stores and goods cannot now be estimated, but is considerable. Tanks and derricks, from the island just above Parkers, are washed away. The new bridge stands it bravely, with thousands of logs which came down the Clarion, striking the piers. The weather is blustering and snowy.

Rochester, Pa.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

ROCHESTER, PA., December 14, 1873.

Charles McKinley, of Beaver, aged twenty-five years, fell into the Ohio river at this place last night and was drowned. He was attempting to catch lumber and fell overboard. His body has not yet been recovered. The Ohio and Beaver rivers are higher now than they have been for a number of years, and the damage to property in this neighborhood will be considerable.

Wheeling, W. Va.

WHEELING, W. VA., December 14.—The river at ten P. M. is about thirty-nine feet, and rising at the rate of one foot an hour. The lower end of the Island and the southern portion of the city are submerged. No damage is done to the city of any consequence, but the loss in the country on both sides streams is great. Fences, out-buildings, hay, corn and even some stock have been swept away.

Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, December 14.—It has been ascertained that the recent heavy rains have not prevailed extensively south and east of the Ohio river, and a great rise is consequently not expected. Small streams are reported high in all parts of Indiana and Ohio, with damage to crops and, in a few cases, to bridges, but not making a great destruction.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

EUGENIE AFFECTED BY BAZAINE'S SENTENCE.

LONDON, December 15.—The Empress Eugenie was so affected by the result of the Bazaine trial, that the postponement of her visit to Queen Victoria was necessary.

DEATH OF A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, December 15.—Mr. Winterbotham, member of Parliament and Under Secretary for the Home Department, is dead.

LOSS OF A STEAMER AND TWENTY-TWO LIVES.

LONDON, December 16.—The steamship Beckton has been lost in the Mediterranean, and twenty-two lives lost.

France.

PETITION FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE MONARCHY.

PARIS, December 15.—In the Assembly today, M. Dahirel, of the extreme Right, presented a petition for the restoration of the monarchy, with 120,000 signatures.

AID TO EUGENIE.

An agreement negotiated by M. Rouher, whereby the government is to restore certain art collections, and pay to the ex-Empress Eugenie $600,000, has been submitted to the budget committee.

Spain.

BOMBARDMENT OF CARTAGENA—ON ITS SUCCESS THE RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLIC TO DEPEND.

MADRID, December 15.—The bombardment of Cartagena opened again to-day with increased vigor. It is said that the great powers will recognize the republic when the Cartagenian insurrection is suppressed.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REPROACHED.

MADRID, December 15.—The *Imparcial* reproaches the Government of the United States with permitting meetings in New Orleans for the organization of expeditions against Cuba.

Germany.

DEATH OF THE QUEEN DOWAGER.

BERLIN, December 15.—Elizabeth, Queen Dowager of Prussia, is dead. Age, seventy-two.

GOVERNMENT SUBSCRIBERS TO HUNGARIAN LOAN.

LONDON, December 15.—The German government subscribes for 24,000,000 marcs of the new Hungarian loan.

Switzerland.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT.

BERNE, December 15.—Dr. C. Schenck has been elected President and Dr. E. W. Eller Vice President of the Swiss Confederation.

OHIO FINANCES.

Report of State Auditor—Showing of Financial Condition of Counties, Townships, Cities, Villages, and School Districts.

COLUMBUS, December 12.—The annual report of the State Auditor, made to the Governor to-day, shows that the amount of debts of counties, townships, cities, villages, and school districts in Ohio is $20,035,123—an increase over 1872 of $2,442,575. City debts are 75 per cent. of the whole indebtedness, and the debts of Cleveland, Cincinnati and Toledo, amounting to $10,275,849, are 67 per cent. of all the debts of cities in Ohio, and more than that of the total reported debts. The Auditor recommends the passage of a law providing for the appointment of a special officer, whose duties shall be to examine into the affairs of every county in Ohio.

IRONTON, O.

A Sunday Row—Man Fatally Wounded—Nail Works Resume.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

IRONTON, O., December 15, 1873.

Sunday afternoon a party of young men invaded the saloon of Adam Huffman, at Hanging Rock, three miles below here, took forcible possession of his liquors and proceeded to enjoy them. During the drunken row that ensued, Theodore Murphy was cut eleven times by Chas. Gowdy. His recovery is doubtful.

The Bellefonte Nail Works resumed operations for a short time, this morning.

CASUALTIES.

Killed by a Falling Tree.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

DAYTON, O., December 15, 1873.

Christian Schultz, aged 47, was instantly killed last Saturday evening by a tree falling on him which he was chopping down on the grounds of the new Catholic cemetery, outside the city limits.

XLIII. CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 11, 1873.

The Senate met at ten o'clock. Vice President Wilson being absent, Mr. Anthony moved that Matthew H. Carpenter be elected President *pro tem* of the Senate.

Mr. STEVENSON nominated Hon. A. G. Thurman.

Messrs. Anthony and Stevenson were appointed tellers. A vote was taken by ballots and resulted as follows:

Carpenter	32
Thurman	16
Blank	2
Whole number of votes cast	48
Necessary to a choice	25

Mr. CARPENTER was elected and Mr. Thurman escorted him to the chair, before taking which, he said: "Senators please accept my grateful thanks."

The usual order, directing the Secretary to notify the President of the United States and the House of Representatives of the election of Carpenter was made.

Mr. WEST submitted a concurrent resolution that when Congress adjourns on Friday, the 19th inst., it be to meet again on Tuesday, January 6th. Objected to by Mr. Morton, who said there was a decided oojection to that.

Mr. ANTHONY moved that when the Senate adjourns to-day, it be to Monday next. Adopted.

Mr. SUMNER called up the bill introduced by him on the first day of the session, for the substitute of one of compound interest for legal tender notes, &c., and addressed the Senate in favor thereof. He said he was for specie payment at the earliest day, and would support any measure to secure that end. Inflation was death to business, and contraction was the proper remedy. The bill he offered had received the encouragement of prominent financiers and business men. It had been approved by the Boston Board of Trade and the leading newspapers of the East and West. The substitution proposed by his bill was in the nature of a contraction, but without taking a dollar from the people. The present disordered currency owed its origin to Congress. The exigency of war has ceased, and Congress should improve the financial condition. The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. DAVIS submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to furnish the Senate all information in his office relating to the fixing of salaries of Senators and Representatives in Congress from the formation of the Government; in what cases provisions for salary were made retroactive; how long time in each case was covered by the retroactive provision; the names of Senators who drew their pay under such provisions; the amount drawn by them respectively, with the dates of payment; the names of Senators who covered into the Treasury the amounts they drew under such provisions, and when, and the date of such action and also a comparative statement of the total compensation and allowance of Senators under the act of July 28th, 1866, and March 3d, 1873, respectively.

Mr. GORDON submitted the following resolution, which he said he would call up tomorrow:

WHEREAS, The abolition of the franking privilege was intended to economize the expenditures of the Government; and

WHEREAS, Its abolition prevents the general distribution to the people of useful field and garden seeds, thus defeating in a measure the benefits which otherwise would accrue to the agriculture of the country from the establishment of the Agricultural Bureau; and also disorganizes the distribution of public documents, which afford important information, and are educators of the people; and

WHEREAS, To compensate the people for these losses, there should be an important reduction of expenditures in the postal service of the Government; therefore,

Resolved, That the Postmaster General be required to report for the information of the Senate, first, what amount of expense, if any, has been saved to the Government by the abolition of the franking privilege; second, how many employees in the mail service, if any, have been discharged, and how much less, if anything, is charged by railroads and other carriers for mails since the abolition of the franking privilege; third, how much less appropriation will be required for the postal service by reason of the abolition of said privilege.

Mr. HOWE introduced a bill relative to the liquor traffic. It provides for the appointment by the President, with the consent of the Senate, of five commissioners to investigate the alcoholic liquor traffic in its economic, criminal, moral and scientific aspects, in connection with pauperism, crime, social vice, public health and the moral welfare of the people, and who shall also inquire and take testimony as to the practical results of license, and restrictive and prohibitory legislation for the prevention of intemperate use in the several States of the Union. The commissioners are to be appointed from civil life, irrespective of political or partisan considerations, and hold office for one year; to serve without salary or other compensation, except the payment of incidental expenses, and are to make their report to the President, by whom it shall be submitted to Congress.

HOUSE.

Mr. PARKER offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Elections to examine and report the best and most practicable method of electing a President and providing a tribunal to adjust and decide all contested questions. Adopted.

Mr. HOAR reported a bill to establish an educational fund, and to apply the proceeds of the sales of public lands to the education of the people. It enacts that the net proceeds of the sales of public lands shall be forever consecrated and set apart for the education of the people, provided the act shall not repeal or impair or suspend any law authorizing the reservation or sale of any public lands, nor abridge the power of Congress over the public domain, nor interfere with the granting of bounty lands to soldiers and sailors of the late war. Without coming to a vote on the bill the House adjourned over until Tuesday next, and the House then resumed the consideration of the bill in relation to salaries.

Mr. POLAND spoke in favor of the amendment he offered some days since. He said that $5,000 a year was ample compensation for his services, and furnished him with ample means to live in the manner in which he chose to live. He had taken the increased pay, and still retained it, preferring for the present to be called a thief and a robber by the press for retaining it than to be stigmatized as a coward and a hypocrite for returning it. He would, however, endeavor to have the thing regulated so that he might be allowed to return the money to the Treasury.

Mr. STEPHENS, of Georgia, was the next speaker. He got on his feet with some difficulty, and not without assistance. Then he supported the amendment of the last speaker in a brief speech. He spoke with a clear ringing voice, which was distinctly audible in every portion of the chamber. His manner was nervous, and his delivery rapid, many of his sentences being left incomplete. He first spoke with the closest attention to the comments of the press. Mr. Stephens said the gentleman from New York, Mr. Tremaine, had spoken yesterday of sophistry and sophisms. He (Stephens) maintained that there could be no statesmanship without it. There never had been a statesman who was not a demagogue. There were two kinds of demagogues—the sham and the genuine. The genuine demagogue was the man who led the people. The sham demagogue pandered to the errors and prejudices of the people. He was very glad to say that the increase of salary bill was a measure for which neither political party was responsible. His opinion was that the Democracy, in the proportion of their votes in Congress, were quite as responsible as Republicans. The first great thing to be learned in this life, as taught in the schools of ancient Greece, was to discriminate between that which the multitude thought was right and that which was right in itself. He claimed that when Congress passed the retroactive law of last session it had a constitutional right to do so. He was not saying whether it was expedient or not, but no blush should rest on the cheek of any man, whether he voted for it or not. He should have felt that he was as justly entitled to it as he was to receive a dollar a day. It was a constitutional law, constitutionally passed, and those who were entitled to pay under it were as much entitled to the whole of it as they were to any dime received under it. If any thought it was too much, he (Stephens) would not cast a slur upon him. In doing so he was not going to place a value on his own services as a Representative, but if he were to state what he thought the services of a Representative ought to be worth, it would go far above the figure of any law that has ever been passed. He had given it as his opinion in the last speech he made in the House, fourteen years ago, that it the salaries of members of Congress were $10,000, of Senators $15,000, of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court $20,000, of Associated Judges $25,000, and of the President $100,000, it would be better for the country at large. He held the same opinion still. He certainly should not vote for the bill reported by the committee, but he should all the same vote for the repeal of the last Congress, was the abolition of the franking privilege.

Mr. GARFIELD replied to Mr. Stephens. There were some things, he said, in the speech just delivered, so radically unlike the views entertained by the American people, that they should be replied to at once, particularly as to public positions being held out as prizes for the emolument attached to them. All that the distinguished gentleman had said in regard to the distinction between demagogue and demagogue and the sham demagogue, would be cordially concurred in by all who heard him. Public opinion, in some of its forms, might sometimes be wrong, but on all, there was a place where public opinion finally adjusted itself and finally gave its stamp to what mankind would usually call right. If this were a world where the highest power was the best paid power, the gentleman's argument would have been right; but exactly the reverse of that rule was true. Returning to the practical question before the House, he said that when public opinion held that the pay which Congress had voted to itself was too high, it would be indelicate in Congress to resist that public opinion. None of the bills before the House met his views, and yet he was willing to vote for several of them if they came first in order. It seemed to him that the aggregate amount of payment and allowances, including mileage, allowed under the old law, ought to be preserved; only that mileage ought to be equalized and distributed among all the members. He believed that if there was a fair equalization of total payments under the old law, it would satisfy all reasonable demands of public opinion, and no unreasonable one ought to be satisfied.

Mr. RANDALL argued at length as to the adequacy and equalization of pay, in favor of the repeal of mileage, and of the substitution of actual expenses.

Mr. FOTTER hoped the law would be repealed, that the franking privilege and mileage would not be restored, and that any increase beyond $5,000 should be confined to future Congresses.

Mr. KASSON advocated the substitute reported by the minority of the committee, and argued that the majority bill would strengthen that element of personal government which has grown up to a dangerous degree. He criticised the recommendation of the President in regard to erecting a mansion in Washington for public officials, and in regard to giving the President the right to veto a portion of a bill. He wanted no principle to be established by the action of the House, which would surrender still further legislative dignity and legislative authority.

Mr. DUNNELL argued that there was but one way for Congress to extricate itself from the difficulty into which it had got, and that was by reducing all salaries that had been raised at the last session. The offense committed in the passage of the law could not be so well atoned for as by the simple, unconditional and unqualified repeal of the law. He argued that the repeal should be retroactive. He should vote for the bill reported by the minority of the committee, rather than that of the majority.

Mr. GROSVENOR argued against the repeal of the salary law. He said he had voted against that law, but he had taken back pay under it. He could not return that back pay if he would, and he would not if he could. [Laughter.] He satirized Mr. Cox under his new appellation of "Dew Drop," and censured Mr. Lawrence for having his picture stamped on some public documents.

Mr. LAWRENCE said that there could not be found half a dozen such works extant. They were originally bound up, not for public use but for another purpose. The engraving left ann. Although agreed to by tellers and recorded yeas 100, nays 145. So the House refused to second the previous question, and Mr. Kasson, who had reported the minority bill, obtained control of the subject. He yielded to Mr. Orth, who moved to recommit the bill to the Select Committee, with instructions to report a bill repealing the whole salary act of the last Congress, so far as the same could be done under the Constitution; and to ascertain the average amount of salary, mileage and all other allowances, exclusive of any estimate for the use of the franking privilege, paid to Senators, Representatives and Delegates in the Forty-first Congress, and report a bill determining the compensation of Senators, Representatives and Delegates in Congress hereafter, at the amount, as near as practicable, thus ascertained, with necessary traveling expenses, and restoring all other salaries as they were before the passage of that act."

The previous question was seconded by a vote of 132 to 126, and the main question ordered. The question was first taken on submitting Mr. Orth's proposition, and it was adopted also, without the yeas and nays. So the bill was recommitted to the Special Committee with the instructions proposed by Mr. Orth, and it was agreed that when the bill shall be reported back, it will be considered under the five minute rule.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Tyner in the chair, and took up the bill appropriating four millions of dollars for the extraordinary expenses of the naval service.

In the course of the discussion

Mr. COX said that there was not brass enough in the House to kill a mouse. The flag of the country had been dragged in the dust through our diplomacy. The House was pusillanimous before all the world, but the navy should be better and stronger, and he would vote at all times to strengthen it.

Mr. HALE, of Maine, accused Mr. Cox of inconsistency, and called to mind the constant attack made by that gentleman hitherto on all naval appropriation bills.

Mr. HAWLEY, of Connecticut, said that he had listened with an indignant start to the remarks of the gentleman from New York, [Cox] who had dared to tell the House that it was pusillanimous and had not energy enough to kill a mouse, and that the flag of the country had been draggled in the dust. He had no admiration for that cheap sort of bravery. He added, I "wish to add an emphatic commendation of the President and Secretary of State for the calm self-respect, good sense and, I may venture to say, Christian temper and Christian statesmanship (unpopular as that expression has become) which they have exhibited in this matter. It would have been easy to have plunged the country headlong into war, unprepared as we were, but even if we had the grandest navy in the world, the people have demanded of the administration the same reticence and self-respect which it has shown. Nothing General Grant ever did,

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1873.

THE Washington correspondent of the New York *Journal of Commerce* says that there is now not "a single consistent free-trader in the Congress of the United States." We are heartily glad to hear it.

FROM the report of the Librarian of Congress, it is learned that the Congressional Library now contains 258,752 volumes, of which number 12,407 were added during the past year. There were 15,352 entries for copyright, being an increase of ten over those of the previous year.

THE imports at the port of New York for the past week footed up $4,519,164; produce exports, $5,170,004; specie exports, $713,206. Merchandise imports since January 1, $371,074,276, against $407,427,575 last year. Exports from 1st of January to date, $282,349,109, against $225,580,047 in 1872. Shipments of specie from 1st of January to date, $46,732,116, against $68,031,747 last year.

FROM all parts of the State come cheering reports in regard to the revival of business. Mills which suspended operation during the earlier days of the financial trouble are resuming work, giving employment to large numbers of men, and putting much money into circulation. The prospects are that by the first of the new year, nearly, if not quite, all the great industrial establishments of the Commonwealth will be at work, with orders enough on hand to insure continuance.

IT HAS just been decided that a woman cannot bring an action in her own name, to recover money on an insurance policy on her husband's life. In the case of Elizabeth P. Bailey vs. the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company, where the company admitted the plaintiff's right to recover the money, but denied the validity of an action brought in her own name, the Supreme Court, of Boston, has just decided in favor of the company, that the action upon such a policy should be brought in the name of the executor or the administrator of the assured.

THE Supreme Court of the United States has, at its present term, decided two very important railroad questions. The first is that the States have a right to tax the property of railroads chartered by the United States Government; and the second is that the States have full power to legislate upon the rates to be charged by railroads within their limits for carrying passengers and freight, and to regulate the carrying trade thereon. These decisions are both of great importance to the Western States, and show that, so far, in the fight between the people and the railroads, the Supreme Court is on the side of the people.

IT is a good thing for the country that its imports fall off steadily; but with the falling off in imports there is a corresponding falling off in revenue. It must, therefore, either spend less or make up the difference in taxation. The New York *Times* says:

In August last the import entries at this port were $32,632,900. In November they were but $20,899,987—a decrease of nearly one-third. But the decrease in receipts from the official duty is not in arriving at such abstract grounds of agreement, but in carrying these general principles into specific action. It is when you come to defining the exact limits of discriminations and profits that divergence takes place, and it will be just as difficult to frame direct laws upon these subjects as it was for the hundred and odd Congressmen to agree upon what they wanted Congress to do.

Another proposal of the New York committee is a grand "national iron highway between the East and the West," to be constructed by the Government and then turned over to individuals, to be operated under a low tariff of rates, which may be classed as another "glittering generality." Where is the East and where the West? Philadelphia and Boston are in the East, as well as New York; and St. Louis, Cincinnati and Omaha are as much in the West as Chicago. Where shall this road begin, and where end? Omaha and St. Louis will not agree that it shall terminate at Chicago, nor Boston and Philadelphia that it shall begin at New York. Pittsburgh and the "West" embrace too much territory to be satisfied with a line of road from any one point in the East to any other in the West; and this Government never was intended to engage in the work of building up two cities in the country, at the expense of all the rest. The merits, therefore, of this grand "national iron highway" depend altogether upon where it is to begin and end.

The men who are thrusting this problem upon the attention of the country must get away from generalities and come down to particulars. If Congress and the State Legislatures are to legislate upon it, they must do so in direct, and not in general, terms; and the one thing now wanting to an intelligent discussion of it is a knowledge of the specific measures that are proposed to be employed. When the friends of "cheap transportation" can agree among themselves as to what they really want, and can set it forth in plain language, so that all the details of their plan can be clearly understood, the country will be prepared to listen to them attentively, and to act wisely; and not till then.

RASCALITY ON BOTH SIDES.

Thirty million dollars in gold is mentioned by a competent authority as the least amount of money within the last few years lost by small capitalists in Germany through the failure of American railroad paper. It is not necessary to say, every one already knows that, the influence of this wholesale swindling has reached, in the injury of American credit, much further than a careful and just consideration of the naked facts would warrant. America to the German at home seems very far away, and its people are, for the most part, known only by the isolated acts which arrest public attention. In the presence of widely spread ruin resulting from the frauds of citizens who so far represent the American name, it would be strange if a conclusion adverse to the national character had not been drawn. A year ago when as yet the extent of the frauds was far from being known, a respectable journal of Berlin remarked that every American was held to be a thief and swindler until he proved himself worthy of a more favorable judgment.

When referring to this unpleasant subject, the other day, we said that the Germans themselves were to blame in the thoughtless eagerness with which they had grasped at whatever American paper was offered them. This opinion our local German contemporary, the *Freiheit's Freund*, thinks perfectly correct. In their desire to obtain extravagant interest for their money, the Germans says the *Freund*, have precipitated themselves upon any American paper which they ought to have regarded with extreme distrust, or known to be worthless, as it had neither recognition nor sale in New York. And our contemporary does not doubt that, while American agents were principals in the deception so extensively practiced, German bankers and money dealers must be held in part responsible for the wrong. The *Freund* mentions a case, of which it was informed by an intelligent American German of this city, who, while in Germany, became personally cognizant of the facts, and which strikingly illustrates the amazing simplicity or carelessness with which even Germans of the educated class were wont to invest their money in doubtful and, to them, unknown American paper.

A lady of education called on the well-known banker, BENFEY of Goettingen, to collect the interest on her American government bonds. After telling her that these bonds would be redeemed at a specified date, the banker offered to give her for them American railroad paper, as to the worth of which the lady avowedly knew nothing, and yet she accepted the bankers offer. One can easily imagine the feelings with which she afterwards learned from the Pittsburgh German that the bonds for which she had exchanged her good American securities, were the bonds of a bankrupt railroad company of the late Confederate States. This incident may be, and probably is only one of thousands of the same kind. Professors, subordinate officials of the civil service drawing small salaries, and the widows and orphans of such persons, tempted by the high rate of interest offered and by the hope of thus increasing their meagre incomes, and withal ignorant of the bad side of the world, were thus ruined through misplaced confidence. Our contemporary admits that, in many cases, the heaviest moral responsibility may rest upon those money dealers in Germany who put the bad paper in circulation. We have not the slightest disposition either to apologize for the American scoundrels engaged in the nefarious business, or to deny that there were many thus engaged; but the more one thinks about it the more plain it seems that, after all, the men who made the villainy a great success must have been German business men, enjoying more or less the confidence of their compatriots. Small capitalists, of whatever rank or position in life, and however ignorant of affairs, would not put their trust in strangers. In most cases they must have acted upon the advice, expressed or implied, of persons in whom they were accustomed to confide in money matters. And, as it is notorious that a very large proportion of the worthless securities which have produced such loss and misery in Germany, had not the confidence of moneyed men on either side of the Atlantic, it is not easy to resist the conclusion that the sin and shame of the rascalities of which they were made the instruments are as much a reproach to Germany as to the United States; while the success with which the Germans at home have thrown the odium of the frauds upon their foreign accomplices, proves them no mean proficients in what a philosophic Teuton once called "Yankeeism."

CUT DOWN THE ESTIMATES.

The House of Representatives has acted wisely in asking the Secretary of the Treasury to have the annual estimates revised and cut down to the lowest possible point, before it will undertake to consider the question of increasing taxation. The first duty of the hour is retrenchment and economy. The various departments of the Government must change the problem from "How much can we spend?" to "How little can we possibly get along with?" This is, to most of them, an entirely new problem; but it is one that requires solution before anything else is done. The nation must first learn how much money it will be compelled to raise before it determines how it will raise it or in what way it shall be spent.

Whether this revision of the estimates will accomplish anything remains to be seen. Many of the experienced members of Congress seem to doubt its efficiency. The heads of bureaus in the various departments never can see how it is possible to get along with less money than the sums they name as necessary, until they are brought face to face with curtailed appropriations; and then, somehow, they manage to worry through on a great deal less than they asked for. Nevertheless, it is the part of prudence to throw these estimates back and ask for their careful reconsideration. If the departments will not cut them down, Congress must; and with this certainty before them it is to be hoped that the departments will yield with a good grace to what cannot be helped.

One thing is certain: we cannot indulge in increased expenditures with a diminishing revenue. The falling off at one end must be mated with a corresponding curtailment at the other. The Government cannot undertake to build railroads and canals, or indulge in such luxuries as new custom houses, without knowing where the money is to come from. The first step, therefore, is to cut down the appropriations as far as possible, and a revisal of the estimates is an essential preliminary to reduced appropriations.

When we have learned the full extent of the sum we *must* spend, we can determine whether new taxes are necessary, and not till then. If our revenue for the current year is likely to fall below $300,000,000, and our unavoidable expenditures go above that sum, there is no alternative but a restoration of some of the taxes that were prematurely repealed. But let us find that fact out, first.

We are now running in debt at the rate of about ten millions a month. In other words, we are spending ten millions a month more than we are receiving. This it is clear, cannot long go on. The people may submit to it, for a short time; but no nation can prosper which is continually spending more than it collects in taxes. It says Mr. MILL, "a man earns one hundred pounds sterling, yearly, and spends ninety-nine pounds, ten shillings and sixpence, the result is happiness; but if he spends one hundred pounds, ten shillings and sixpence, the result is misery." And it is with nations as with men. The country must keep its expenditures within its income; and in order to do that intelligently it must first learn to put a wholesome limit upon its expenditures.

THE CURRENCY.

The wide difference of opinion that prevails every where as to the wisdom of increasing the amount of national currency, renders intelligent action upon it, for the present, almost impossible. The Chamber of Commerce, in New York, and the Boards of Trade at Boston and Philadelphia, have all decided against any increase in the paper money of the country, and all of these bodies look to a speedy return to specie payments, as not only practicable but wise and necessary. On the other hand, the ultra free-trade organs, such as the New York *Bulletin*, join hands with HENRY C. CAREY, WM. D. KELLEY, and the high protectionists, in favor of more currency, the union of these representatives of hostile sentiments in favor of that measure adding materially to the bewilderment of the mere looker-on. The Western and Southern Boards of Trade all seem to favor expansion, but as their members are nearly all friends of free trade, how is it that we find them and the high protectionists of one accord in a matter so vital? It is all a muddle, for the time being, and one that would send wiser men than poor STEPHEN BLACKFOOL to distraction.

One thing, alone, is plain in the midst of all this conflict of authorities—that the study of financial problems has not been prosecuted in this country to any great extent within the life of the present generation. The time was when men devoted themselves to the study of political economy, and were appealed to to settle grave questions, when they arose, upon well recognized and thoroughly understood principles; but that time has gone by: and the nation finds itself, to-day, with a terrible financial derangement upon its hands, and its thinkers at daggers' points with each other as to the method of escape. There seems to be no common ground on which all can stand; no one recognized point of agreement from which all can start as from a common premiss; no well-defined principles on which all, or even a majority, can agree. Financial questions have not been the study of our public men; and here we are, one and all, at sea upon the national finances, with neither rudder nor helmsman to use it.

Under such circumstances, there is one idea that will come uppermost in the minds of all cautious and prudent men—*go slow*. We are in a fog, and must feel our way out. There is clear daylight ahead somewhere, and we must crawl along until we can get into it. Everybody is interested in getting the country out of its present difficulties, and the grand object is to get from all this wild conflict of opinion some knowledge of what it is best to do. At present all is confusion worse confounded; but it is to be hoped that, comparing opinion with opinion and fact with fact, the country may eventually work itself out of its predicaments.

Much, therefore, as confusion and discord may prevail for the present, we do not despair of seeing favorable and orderly results evolved from them. The financial Solons of Boston differ widely from those of Chicago, as do those of New York with St. Louis and Philadelphia with Cincinnati; but there must be *some* elements of agreement among them, somewhere; and when these have been discovered, the way to a practical solution of the difficulty will be comparatively easy and short.

The Official Vote of New York.

The New York *Times* says: By allowing all imperfect ballots returned, the State Canvassers declare the following to be the vote on each candidate on the State ticket, as voted at the election in this State on the 4th of November last:

SECRETARY OF STATE.

Thayer	331,118	Willers	341,001
		Williams (Dem.)	9,383
Willers' majority			9,883

COMPTROLLER.

Hopkins	337,992	Nichols	333,927
Hopkins's majority			4,065

TREASURER.

Fort	329,416	Raines	342,046
Raines's majority			12,630

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Stillman	330,470	Pratt	340,468
Pratt's majority			9,998

STATE ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.

Taylor	329,365	Sweet	342,233
Sweet's majority			14,868

CANAL COMMISSIONER.

Mead	329,861	Jackson	341,873
Jackson's majority			12,012

STATE PRISON INSPECTOR.

Platt	337,572	Millspaugh	333,812
Platt's majority			3,760

The Temperance vote was the same on all the candidates as on Williams for Secretary of State, except on Elliott for Controller, who received 3,246 votes.

Production of Pig Iron in the United States.

Compiled from records and careful estimates by Mr. James M. Swank, Secretary of the American Iron and Steel Association:

YEARS.	Anthracite.	Charcoal	Bit. Coal, & Coke	Total.
1860	519,911	276,331	122,228	919,170
1861	409,229	195,278	127,037	731,544
1862	470,315	186,660	130,687	787,662
1863	517,638	182,060	167,001	947,694
1864	684,018	241,853	210,125	1,135,996
1865	479,558	262,242	189,682	931,592
1866	749,367	332,500	268,396	1,350,343
1867	798,628	344,341	318,647	1,461,626
1868	882,000	370,000	400,000	1,652,000
1869	971,150	392,150	553,341	1,916,641
1870	930,000	365,000	570,000	1,865,000
1871	956,608	352,000	670,000	1,974,608
1872	1,369,812	*500,857	†893,671	2,830,070
1873	1,249,672	‡520,437	¶921,634	2,695,434

*Included 17,000 tons pig iron.
†Includes 37,346 tons of mixed anthracite and coke pig iron.
‡Includes 1,600 tons of mixed peat and charcoal pig iron, and 1,778 tons of mixed charcoal and bituminous coke pig iron.
¶Includes 48,000 tons of mixed anthracite and coke pig iron.

American Citizens of French Origin.

In a recent dispatch from Mr. Washburne it is stated that naturalized citizens born in France, who return to the place of their birth, are sometimes subjected to great inconvenience, trouble and expense. He says that the French laws are well defined upon the subject, and that he has no fault to find with the manner in which they are applied. When it is proved before a civil court that the party has lost his quality of French citizen he cannot serve in the French army, and when it is shown that he has lost this quality for over three years he cannot be punished for "insoumission," but, pending the trial and decision of the court, the party may be imprisoned. This is not always done. He is often released on bail; but under all circumstances he must employ counsel, and is put to great inconvenience and expense. These cases are of almost monthly occurrence.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 16, 1873.

Repeal of the Bankrupt Act.

Mr. Tremaine's first effort to engineer a bill through the House, on the proposed repeal of the Bankrupt act, met with signal failure. He was quite sure of success yesterday, but received his first check in being defeated in his effort to carry it through under a suspension of the rules. His bill was defeated to-day, and a much simpler one passed instead. A member of the committee declared the bill in the interests of Jay Cooke, which was the fatal thrust. The inference of the action of the House is that Cooke and projects for Government aid to the Northern Pacific, for the purpose of setting him on his feet once more, will have no chance whatever of success.

Committee Matters.

Senator Sumner refuses to act on committees on the ground of not having been properly recognized in their organization. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs met today and examined a number of private claims. A bill for the reorganization of the consular service will be reported during the session.

Measures of Retrenchment.

The House Committee on Appropriations, at their meeting to-day, heard a statement from the Postmaster General in explanation of the deficiency in his department. He said that the first every encouragement that the estimates of his department would be materially reduced. The committee is seriously in earnest on the subject of retrenchment and have agreed among themselves that at least forty millions can be cut out of the estimates sent in for 1875, without embarrassing the operations of the Government. The principal items of reduction, it is suggested, should be fortifications, river and harbor improvements and public buildings. The amount for the first three is about thirty-three millions, which, in the opinion of the committee, might be brought down to seven millions. In regard to public buildings, they declare that about eight hundred thousand dollars were appropriated which had never received the sanction of the committee. Not entirely relying upon the executive departments, the committee is having a list of additional appropriations for the last fiscal year made. The statement, though yet incomplete, indicates that the amount will exceed forty to twenty-five million dollars. The result of this investigation has already startled the committee.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 17, 1873.

The Christmas Holidays.

The Senate, to-day, disposed of the House resolution for a holiday recess, in a most unexpected manner. It has been customary to take about two weeks at Christmas, for the enjoyment of that season. Senator Morton, however, reminded the Senate that circumstances and the general condition of the Government required prompt action; that it was not time to talk about a recess, and that the majority would be held responsible.

The result was that but two Republicans and all the Democrats, except Thurman, voted for a recess. Thurman is looking for a re-election.

The Bankrupt Act.

There is considerable opposition in the Senate to the House bill repealing the bankrupt act, but a modified form, relieving debtors from the injustice of the present law, is favorably received. The Senate committee will report a new bill, which must then have the sanction of the House, which will be no recess, in the opinion of many, till the bankrupt question is disposed of.

Local and National Patent Associations.

At the International Patent Congress, held in Vienna last August, an executive committee was appointed, composed of one delegate from each of the countries represented, and it was arranged that measures should be taken to organize patent associations under the administration of a central head in each country. Mr. Thacher, who, on his return, has been in correspondence with leading inventors, and the universal opinion has been favorable to the proposed organization of the National Board of the United States. Information has been received here of the forming of an association in Boston composed of New England inventors. A convention and exhibition under the National Patent Congress will meet here on January 15th, and the correspondence on the subject promises that it will be largely attended from all parts of the country.

The Financial Situation

of the Government has become a matter of grave consideration in the minds of Senators and Representatives. Increased taxation is not by any means palatable to Congress, particularly when they review the extravagances of the last session and discover that the present embarrassment is, in a great measure, due to their own legislation. The creation of new offices, ordering of expensive investigations, appointment of perigrinating committees, the purchase of sites to inquire whether any public buildings, and many other expenditures which might have been reduced, it is now seen, have imposed extraordinary drains on the Treasury. The injudicious purchase of bonds by the Secretary of the Treasury, it is also declared, has depleted the Treasury of coin, and has rendered it largely in embarrassment. The Committee on Ways and Means, with the rigid retrenchment resolved on by the Committee on Appropriations, has given the government a breathing storm by resorting to a temporary loan. In face of Secretary Richardson's letter comes Mr. Sumner's proposition to abolish the internal revenue taxation, and resort to a direct commercial mode of collecting internal taxes. Senator Sherman to-day said that the administration could expect no more appropriations unless it gave satisfactory assurances of a rigid economy in all its expenditures, which was not indicted by the estimates. The Finance Committee declare that the condition of the finances of the Government is not to be encouraged on account of stagnation in business, for though there is a falling off of receipts, the disbursements seem to be on the increase. The difference between the estimated receipts and expenditures, under Boutwell and Richardson, show an excess of thirty-three millions in the first instance, and a deficit of twenty millions in the second. The letter says that it may be more. Mr. Boutwell will have an opportunity to explain.

The Salary Bill.

The fixing of the salaries of members of Congress at six thousand dollars was carried after a session of four hours. Ben Butler took an opportunity to overhaul a number of members. He brought down the House on Hale, when he alluded to him as having inherited and married wealth. There is every probability that the Senate will pass the bill in its present form.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

TERRIFIC STORM AND HURRICANE IN ENGLAND—MANY LIVES LOST AND GREAT DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

LONDON, December 16.—The weather has been very tempestuous to-day throughout the country, and on the coast much damage to shipping is reported.

LONDON, December 17, 1:30 A. M.—The storm has abated. Telegraph wires were prostrated in all directions, but many lines that are now working bring news that the storm extended all over the north of England and far into Scotland. Sheffield looks as if it had been bombarded. The loss of property is immense. Churches were unroofed and factories leveled. The highest estimate places the casualities to persons in that city at seven killed and thirty wounded, many fatally. Dispatches show that the effects of the hurricane were felt in Glasgow, Halifax, Dewesbury, and Nottingham, in all of which cities lives were lost, and great damage done. A Leeds it is estimated that property to the amount of a hundred thousand dollars was destroyed. Extensive damage was done at West Hartlepool and Durham. Shipping suffered severely at Newcastle and Shields. A steamer is ashore off Ardrossan; and the railway station and several houses were blown down in Weeton, near Harrowgate, on the York and and North Midland road.

CASTELAR ANNOUNCES TO SICKLES THE SURRENDER OF THE VIRGINIUS.

Herald Cable Special.

PARIS, December 16.—A dispatch from Madrid says that Castelar made an official call on General Sickles, accompanied by the Secretary of State, and made a formal announcement of the surrender of the Virginius and prisoners. The utmost cordiality was shown on both sides.

REPORT OF EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE DELEGATES

LONDON, December 16.—An enthusiastic meeting was held at Exeter Hall to-day, to hear the report of delegates to the Evangelical Alliance. Lord Ebury presided. Speeches were made by Lord Alfred Churchill, Dean of Canterbury; Rev. Dr. Parker and others, who alluded with the utmost enthusiasm to their splendid reception in America.

THE CAPE COAST CASTLE EXPLOSION.

LONDON, December 16.—Advices from Cape Coast Castle to the 24th ult. report that Gen. Sir Garnet Walseley had completely recovered his health and resumed active duty. During his illness the expedition was at a stand-still and movements had since been difficult, owing to the large numbers of sick. The authorities at Madeira were planning all obstacles they could in the way of the establishment there of a sanatorium for British soldiers stricken with fever.

KING OF ASHANTEES DEAD—ANOTHER STEAMER AND TWENTY-TWO LIVES LOST.

LONDON, December 16.—It is reported that the King of the Ashantees is dead. The steamer Celerity, from Riga, bound for Stettin, has been lost. Twenty-one persons were drowned.

ZANESVILLE, OHIO.

Arrest on a Requisition—Murder Trial—Death of a Prominent Citizen.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

ZANESVILLE, O., December 16, 1873.

John Applegate was arrested last night, on a requisition from the Governor of Kansas, and taken to that State, charged with obtaining money under false pretenses.

The trial of John Walford, charged with murdering Charles Vickers, commenced today. After considerable challenging, a jury was obtained. Prosecuting Attorney Geary and Col. Ball are for the State, and Judge Granger and Frank Southord for the defense.

Samuel Stevens, an old and well-known citizen of this county, died at his residence, at Chandlersville, yesterday.

A NEW CONSTITUTION.

Little Interest and Light Vote.

150,000 Majority in Favor of the New.

We give below such returns as have reached us up to the hour of going to press. They indicate the adoption of the new Constitution by something like 150,000 majority. Very little interest was manifested, and the election seems to have gone by default.

Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, December 16.—A very light vote was cast in this city to-day—not more than half the usual number. The returns, so far as received, show that twenty-one out of twenty-nine wards, give 25,000 majority for the Constitution. The following are the estimates: Carbon county, 800 majority; Chester county, 4,000 majority; Bedford county, 1,500 majority; Monroe county, 1,500 majority; Northumberland county, 1,000 majority; all for the Constitution. The following are, so far, the only instances of opposition: Adams county, 1,300 majority against, and "Lower Swatara," Dauphin county, 126 majority against.

PHILADELPHIA, December 16.—The estimated majority in favor of the Constitution, based on returns already in, is 150,000. Out of a total vote of 82 692, Philadelphia gives 26,864 majority in favor of the Constitution.

Butler County.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BUTLER, December 16, 1873.

The vote here to-day was largely in favor of the new Constitution.

Beaver County.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

ROCHESTER, December 16, 1873.

Rochester borough gives two hundred and thirty-one for and forty-six against. Phillipsburg, up to four o'clock, twenty-nine for and five against.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FREEDOM, December 16, 1873.

The vote on new Constitution is, fifty-six for and fifty-four against.

Crawford County.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CONNEAUTVILLE, December 16, 1873.

The borough vote is two hundred and four for, and seven against, the new Constitution.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

TITUSVILLE, December 16, 1873.

A very small vote was polled to-day. Five hundred and twenty-one were cast for the new Constitution, and twenty-one against.

Fayette County.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BELLE VERNON, December, 16, 1873.

Belle Vernon gives twenty-eight for, and ninety-five against the new Constitution.

Indiana County.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

INDIANA, December 16, 1873.

Notwithstanding the three members of the Constitutional Convention, Messrs. Porter, Clarke and White, canvassed our county thoroughly, we will give over one thousand majority against the Constitution.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BROOKVILLE, December 16, 1873.

Brookville borough gives thirty-two majority for the new Constitution. Rose township give thirty majority against.

Mercer County.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

GREENVILLE, December 16, 1873.

The majority for the Constitution is three hundred and eighty-one in Greenville.

Somerset County.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

SOMERSET, December 16, 1873.

Somerset borough and township gives two hundred and seventy-nine majority against the new Constitution.

Venango County.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

OIL CITY, December 16, 1873.

This city gives five hundred and fifteen majority in favor of the adoption of the new Constitution.

Westmoreland County.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WEST NEWTON, December 16, 1873.

West Newton borough gives one hundred and forty-nine for the new Constitution, and three against.

Washington County.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, December 16, 1873.

In the election in this borough to-day, on the new State Constitution, there was a majority of three hundred and thirty-two for the Constitution.

Clinton County.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LOCK HAVEN, December 17, 1873.

The majority for the new Constitution in this city is about eight hundred, and in Clinton county, two thousand.

Greene County.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WAYNESBURG, December 17, 1873.

Returns from the county are not full, but the majority against the Constitution will be about one thousand.

SURRENDER OF THE VIRGINIUS.

Full Particulars of the Ceremony of Transfer—The Vessel in a Filthy and Leaky Condition—She is Towed out of Bahia Honda Harbor by the Dispatch.

NEW YORK, December 17.—A correspondent of the *Tribune* who was present at the surrender of the Virginius, telegraphs from Key West that the surrender took place at Bahia Honda yesterday morning. The fast steam yacht Dispatch was selected to receive the Virginius, and Captain Whiting, of the Worcester, was designated to command her. He was accompanied by Lieut. Adolph Moriox, Master Geo. A. Calhoun and Assistant Engineer N. H. Ladin. The crew consisted of thirty-nine men from the Pawnee. The Dispatch sailed from Key West Sunday, and reached Bahia Honda about noon of Monday. The correspondent says: "As soon as the Dispatch was sighted from shore, the Spanish flag, bearing the crown, notwithstanding the Republican edict abolishing that monarchial emblem, was flung to the breeze. We discovered a black, side-wheel steamship, with two smokestacks, lying about a mile beyond the fort, and in perfectly smooth water. No other craft, except two or three coasting schooners were then visible, and it was not until we were about to come to anchor that we discovered a Spanish sloop-of-war lying close under shore, about two miles and a half away. The Dispatch proceeded slowly and steadily along, and anchored about 400 yards from the Virginius. Almost immediately thereafter a boat from the Spanish frigate came alongside the Virginius, and at a quarter of two o'clock, the stars and stripes were raised by Spanish hands and again floated over the vessel which only a few months ago, murdered Ryan, and their unfortunate comrades to their untimely graves. The Spanish flag was hauled down, and at the same moment we saw, by the aid of glasses, another boat let down from the Spanish vessel, which proved to be the captain's gig. It brought to the Dispatch a handsome young naval officer in full uniform. He was courteously met at the gangway by Captain Rodgers. He introduced himself as Senor De la Camara, commander of the sloop-of-war Favorita. He was invited into the cabin, but being informed by Captain Rodgers that Captain Whiting was on board to receive the surrender, stepped back towards the latter, and Spaniard and American lifted caps in courteous salute. Commander De la Camara remarked that he had received a copy of the protocol requiring the surrender of the Virginius, and was prepared to execute it, either on that or the following day. Captain Whiting replied that he was instructed to receive the vessel on Tuesday, but the hour would be left to the convenience of the Spanish commander. It was then agreed that the ceremony should take place at nine o'clock Tuesday morning. Cards were again exchanged, and Senor De la Camara left the ship, the interview not having consumed more than five minutes. In the afternoon, Captain Whiting and Lieut. Moriox returned the call, and were received with proper courtesies. On Tuesday morning, punctually as the bells on the Dispatch struck eight bells, and before the echo had died away, the American flag flew to the flag-staff of the Virginius, and at the same moment a boat containing Captain Whiting, and Lieut. Moriox left the side, signalled to his oarsmen and in ten minutes was again upon the deck of the Dispatch, the vessel being discharged with becoming dignity the unpleasant duty imposed upon him by his government. The Virginius was in a most filthy condition. She was leaky to that degree that one of which repeals all provisions of the act of March 3d, 1873, which increases the salary or compensation of Senators, Representatives and delegates in Congress, or of any officer or employee of the Government, except so far as relates to Judges of the Supreme Court and to the President of the United States, during his present term of office. The second section provides that hereafter the compensation of Senators, Representatives and Delegates in Congress shall be at the rate of $5,000 per annum, and that this shall be in lieu of all allowances, except actual and necessary individual traveling expense coming to and returning from the national capital once in every session, which shall be paid to every Senator, Representative and Delegate, on the same being certified by him to the proper accounting officer, and the salary or compensation of officers and employees of Government, subject to the exceptions named in section one, shall hereafter be the same as they were prior to the passage of the act of 1873. The third section requires the Secretary of the Treasury to cover into the treasury all sums that may remain undrawn or that have been received as increased compensation which shall or may have come into his possession by return thereof.

MR. HALE stated how the committee had arrived at the figures of $5,000. The aggregate mileage of both Houses of last Congress was $780,960, making a yearly average of $416 80 for each member. To that was to be added the allowance for stationery, $125, and that would make the salary and allowances $5,541.80. The committee had therefore fixed the total amount at $5,000.

Mr. KASSON, member of the committee, offered an amendment, providing that Senators, Representatives and Delegates of the Forty-third Congress, who had received their compensation since the 4th of March, 1873, in accordance with the act of 1873, shall hereafter be paid only such equal monthly installments as shall, in the aggregate, make their compensation for the whole Congress equal to the amount fixed in this law.

Mr. BARRY did not believe in the humbug of returning back pay, and thought there was hardly a member, who, in the bottom of his heart, wanted the law of last session repealed.

Mr. HUBBARD facetiously offered an amendment providing for three classes of Congressmen: class A, with $7,500 salary; class B, with $5,000, and class C, with $3,000, members to select for themselves at the beginning of each Congress to which class they shall belong. He believed the House did not intend to pass any practical measure, and he proposed to help on the House in that direction.

Mr. NEAL spoke in favor of the reduction taking effect from the beginning of the present Congress, and declared that, in his opinion, the Senators of the United States was more responsible for the increased salary law than any one else.

Mr. ELDRIDGE defended his course in voting for the salary bill of March, 1873. He had been in the House ten years, and had not now as much of this world's goods as he had when first elected, and his own case he presumed to be that of all members who had honestly attended to their duties. He believed that much of the outcry against the salary bill was owing to the fact that something had to be done by the Republican press to divert attention from the great national reproach of the Credit Mobilier.

Mr. HALE, of New York, was in favor of the repeal of the law, so far as Senators and members of Congress were concerned, and the restoration of the former salary with mileage.

Mr. KASSON called the previous question on the amendment offered by him.

Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, asked to offer an amendment, providing further that members of Congress who were members of any Congress and who received back pay under acts passed at that Congress, shall have the amount of such back pay deducted from the amount due them for this Congress. [General laughter and hand-clapping all over the house.]

Mr. KASSON refused to withdraw the previous question. The House, however, refused to second the previous question, and then Mr. Butler offered his amendment. Pending the vote on Mr. Butler's proposition, a motion to adjourn was rejected; also Mr. Butler's amendment—yeas 121, nays 129. After another motion to adjourn had been defeated, the House voted on Mr. Kasson's amendment, making the reduction of members' salaries take effect from the 4th of March, 1873—adopted 8—yeas 172; nays 77. Without making further progress with the measure, the House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 17, 1873.

SENATE.

The Chaplain, in prayer, alluded to the death of Colonel Dent, and invoked consolation of Divine Providence upon the President and family. Alluding to the death of Agassiz, he invoked the same blessing upon sages and scholars, among whom the prince had just fallen.

Mr. WRIGHT presented a petition asking the repeal of the bankrupt act. Referred.

A bill placing a line of telegraph between the capitol and several departments under the charge of the Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds passed.

Mr. MORRILL, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported back the House bill making a special appropriation of four millions of dollars for the navy without amendment, and asked that it be considered immediately.

Mr. MORTON hoped it would be postponed until other matters should be disposed of.

Mr. MORRILL then gave notice that he would call up the bill to-morrow.

Mr. MORTON asked that the resolution offered by him yesterday, in regard to the admission of Mr. Pinchback to the Senate, be taken up.

Mr. FERRY, of Connecticut, had hoped that this subject would be postponed until after the holidays. He would object to the vote being passed this week, as he desired to say something. The morning hour having expired, the Chair announced the resolution reported by the Finance Committee on Wednesday last, was in regular order.

Mr. MORTON moved to lay aside the regular order of business and proceed with the consideration of the resolution to admit Mr. Pinchback, offered by him. Agreed to.

Mr. MORTON then addressed the Senate in favor of the resolution. He argued that the investigation last winter into Louisiana matters had nothing to do with the present case, and protested against having this case overlaid by that sort of argument and talk. He did not mean that this case should be rushed through without consideration, but there was a right involved, and the resolution was in every sense a privileged question.

Mr. MCCREERY gave notice that he desired to speak to-morrow.

Mr. SHERMAN, from the Finance Committee, reported unfavorably the bill authorizing the payment of a portion of duties on imports in legal tenders, and the committee was discharged from further consideration of the bill. Bills were introduced as follows:

By Mr. CHANDLER—Amendatory of the enrollment and license laws. It provides for extending to all vessels navigating the waters of the United States the provisions of the act of February 28th, 1865, relating to enrollment and license of vessels navigating western rivers and waters on the northern, northwestern and northeastern frontiers. Referred.

By Mr. BOGY, to establish an iron ship building yard on the waters of the Atlantic, and one in the Mississippi Valley, to afford facilities to the navy. Referred.

By Mr. WRIGHT, to facilitate assorting and redeeming of National bank note currency, and to authorize the issue of circulating notes to the amount of ninety-five per cent, in lieu of ninety per cent, now authorized by law. It authorizes the President to designate some one National bank in New York city, with a capital of at least one million dollars, to act as secretary or redeeming agent for all mutilated or soiled and worn out National bank notes issued by the banks keeping an account therewith, and such banks so keeping with this depository an average balance of two per cent. on their circulation, shall be entitled to receive from the Comptroller of the Currency notes to the amount of 92 per cent. on the United States bonds deposited in the Treasury, as security for their circulation. Referred.

Mr. MORRILL, of Vermont, from the Committee on Finance, reported adversely on a bill to repeal section six, of the act of March 3d, 1865, imposing a tax of ten per cent. on the circulation of bank notes, and the Committee was discharged. He also reported from that Committee an act amendatory of the act to reduce duties on imports, and to reduce internal taxes, which provides that free merchandise which arrived at a port of the United States, on or before the 31st day of July, 1872, and upon which duties were not paid prior to August 1st that year, though the same were not entered or transferred to a public store or bonded warehouse, shall be entitled to the benefits of the 8th section of the act of June 6th, 1872, the same as such merchandise would have been entitled to, had it actually been in public store or bonded warehouse on or prior to the 31st of July of that year. Passed.

At 2:45, the Senate went into Executive session.

At five o'clock the doors were reopened and the House resolution to adjourn over during the holidays, from Friday next, and the House bill to repeal the bankrupt act, were read the first time and laid over until to-morrow. Adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. WILLARD offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Civil Service and Retrenchment to inquire whether any reduction be made in the cost of Civil Service, in the number of officers employed, and compensation impairing the efficiency of the service, and also the expediency of providing that all the officials in the Civil Service shall receive, as compensation, such salary as shall be fixed and determined by law. Adopted.

The House then took up the bill reported yesterday from the Judiciary Committee, to repeal the Bankruptcy act, and Mr. Tremaine proceeded to advocate it.

Mr. ELDRIDGE, of the Judiciary Committee, advocated the bill. He understood the gentleman who had reported the original bankruptcy bill to the House (referring to Mr. Jenck

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

A Very Quiet Election.

A Light Vote and a Large Majority in Favor of the New Instrument.

The election on the question of the adoption of the new Constitution was held Tuesday, and turned out a very quiet affair. We give below returns from all the districts of this city, except the Twenty-second and Twenty-third wards, while we have full returns from Allegheny city. The vote was light, but it will be seen a large majority is given in favor of the new instrument. Following are the figures:

PITTSBURGH.	For.	Against.
First	277	66
Second	338	59
Third	196	31
Fourth	339	45
Fifth	359	24
Sixth	452	46
Seventh	270	224
Eighth	450	38
Ninth	304	69
Tenth	260	97
Eleventh	367	16
Twelfth, First precinct	178	11
Twelfth, Second precinct	253	36
Thirteenth, First precinct	203	11
Thirteenth, Second precinct	59	5
Fourteenth	357	97
Fifteenth	308	32
Sixteenth, First precinct	133	13
Sixteenth, Second precinct	153	9
Seventeenth, First precinct	276	28
Seventeenth, Second precinct	228	22
Eighteenth	76	9
Nineteenth	209	13
Twentieth	197	12
Twenty-first, First precinct	197	34
Twenty-first, Second precinct	35	4
Twenty-fourth	60	145
Twenty-fifth	239	59
Twenty-sixth	406	57
Twenty-seventh	147	32
Twenty-eighth	361	15
Twenty-ninth	202	20
Thirtieth	241	41
Thirty-first	83	53
Thirty-second	159	9
Thirty-third	70	4
Thirty-fourth	102	2
Thirty-fifth	62	16
Thirty-sixth	112	12
Majority for	8,674	1,475
	7,199	

What will be the Thirty-seventh ward on the first day of January, voted yesterday as the First precinct of Wilkins township, and the vote stands: for 137 and against 11.

ALLEGHENY.	For.	Against.
First	496	13
Second	320	19
Third, First precinct	484	19
Third, Second precinct	313	26
Fourth, First precinct	376	29
Fourth, Second precinct	218	9
Fifth	446	19
Sixth	576	8
Seventh	314	5
Eighth	119	4
Ninth	136	15
Tenth	91	6
Eleventh	102	11
Majority for	4,578	215
	4,363	

THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Its Present Status—The Increase of the Year.

The New York *Christian Advocate*, the official organ of the Methodist Episcopal Church, gives the following statistics showing the present condition of the denomination, and the increase of a year:

	This year.	Increase.
Bishops	14	
Annual conferences	76	
Itinerant preachers	10,573	326
Local preachers	12,261	297
Total preachers and bishops	22,846	626
Lay members	1,288,704	16,386
Probationers	175,323	*dec.* 10,622
Total members and probationers	1,464,027	5,586
Deaths during the year	18,900	1,822
Church edifices	14,499	499
Value of church edifices	$66,332,680	$3,939,343
Parsonages	4,672	192
Value of parsonages	$8,542,554	*dec.* $83,323
Total value of churches and parsonages	$74,875,134	$3,906,020
Sunday schools	18,031	559
Sunday school officers and teachers	197,180	3,489
Sunday school scholars	1,159,803	40,044
Conference collections	$1,085,339	$77,901

Commenting on these figures, the *Advocate* says:

It will be noted that, after making up for the unusually large number of deaths (18,900), there is a considerable net gain in the membership, though much less than was hoped for at the beginning of the year. There has been a large increase in the number of itinerant and local preachers.

The advance in the number of churches is also large, giving one church edifice for one and a half church for every working day of the year. In the number of parsonges the gain has been nearly four each week. The net increase in church property (churches and parsonages) is nearly $4,000,000. The avcrage increase in connectional church property for each week of the year is over seventy-five thousand dollars.

The progress of the church in the Sunday School department is also gratifying, the average gain for every Sabbath in the year being over 10,7, over 67 officers and teachers, and 770 scholars.

OHIO NEWS.

Toledo has a policeman six feet seven inches high.

The annexation of the village of Newburg to Cleveland, to be known as the Eighteenth ward, was made valid on Saturday without opposition.

Mr. Samuel Frank, of Columbus, who was accidentally shot in the leg, while hunting, some ten days ago, died on Saturday with the lock-jaw.

A MILKMAN at the East End, Dayton, by the name of Shafor, getting terribly provoked at his horse, which became fractious on Saturday, procured an axe and beat the animal on the head so that it died from brutal treatment. Shafor was arrested.

THE late Sidney Clarke, of Cincinnati, left $500,000 to the American Christian (Disciples) Missionary Society. Rev. D. S. Burnet, a native of Dayton, who died several years ago, left Chicago property to the same society which is now worth $200,000. Both of these gentlemen also made large contributions to the Central Christian (Disciples) Church in Cincinnati. Mr. Burnet gave $10,000 and Mr. Clarke a larger sum.

Our readers will remember that some time since, at a serenade of a newly-married couple in Hubbard, the gentle bride, Mrs. Calista Brisbine, appeared at the door and threw sulphuric acid in the faces of several of the party who were giving the charivari, fearfully burning whoever was struck by it, and destroying the eyesight of one or more of the parties. Suits for damages were entered by the injured persons, that of David Brisbine coming up for trial in the Trumbull county court last week, and resulted in a verdict for plaintiff for $2,000.

Two colored persons—man and wife—at Circleville, have just established their claim to equality before the law by being divorced. They were not quite up to the *white standard*, however, since neither was married before leaving the court room.

Licking county boasts of a case, still undecided, in her courts, wherein the amount in dispute was originally two hundred dollars. It has been set for trial ten different times, and the costs already amount to twenty-five hundred dollars!

The Cleveland *Herald* says that the committee on the division of the Ohio Episcopal Diocese met lately and passed a resolution that it is expedient to divide the Diocese into two by a line crossing the State East and West. The actual line of division was not stated. The further consideration of the matter was postponed until the meeting of the Diocese Convention. Bishop Bedell, on request of the committee, gave his views, and as the *Herald* understands them, the Bishop favored the division of Ohio into five Dioceses, the central one to be composed of *Franklin*, Knox and Licking counties to be denominated the Diocese of Ohio.

Dayton is stretching every nerve in the effort to waken interest in manufactures. The effort to establish a Board of Trade or Chamber of Commerce proceeds with the utmost vigor.

Rev. Mr. Lang, of Fremont, has had charge of a congregation in that place for thirty years. In that time he has baptized 1,200 children, buried 1,050, buried 1,200, and has had 16,500 communicants.

A gentleman in Cleveland rejoices in the name of Judfjet.

Jonathan Whoop, of Delaware, has fourteen children, the oldest only sixteen.

At the recent term of court in Portage county there were twenty-six divorce cases on the docket, in eleven of which decrees of divorce were granted, eight were continued, four dismissed or discontinued, and three settled.

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Delia Case, a school-teacher in Sharon township, Franklin county, and Frank Johnson, one of her pupils, for severely whipping another pupil, Frank Stewart. It is alleged that Johnson, on command of the teacher, held Stewart while Miss Case whipped him.

The body of William Bowles, a good-natured ne'er-do-well, at Lancaster, was taken from the canal, near the gas works, Monday. He was in the habit of lodging almost nightly at the gas works, and it is supposed that he fell in some night when drunk.

A family moving into the "Major Cox" house, at Lancaster, found in a closet a bag containing coin, and marked "$150." It was both tied up and sewed up, and was handed, unopened, to the owner, to whom it was received with many expressions of wonder and astonishment.

W. Marshall Anderson, or Circleville, has the luck of relationship with Ohio Governors. His father-in-law, Duncan McArthur, was Governor of Ohio; his brother, Hon. Charles Anderson, when Lieutenant Governor, became Governor by the death of Governor Brough, and now, his brother-in-law, Hon. William Allen, is Governor elect.

Desulphurizing Coke.

Dr. Hoffman communicates the fact that the sulphur may be completely removed from coke by addition, in quenching it, of acid chloride of manganese, sulphureted hydrogen being formed; manganese with some chloride remaining as a desirable addition to the coke. The solution of the acid chloride may be made in small leaden reservoirs, and allowed to flow into the water tanks, as needed.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 17, 1873.

The letter of Secretary Richardson on the subject of a deficiency in the revenues and in favor of increased taxation seems to have been the main cause for the advance in gold to 111¼, which quotation has not been sustained.

Money in the eastern markets is easy on call, ruling at from 4 to 7 per cent., but commercial paper rules as high there as here. From our telegraphic reports we note the increa e of the legal tender issue of the Government to $574,000,000 or an increase of $18,000,-000 over the fixed limit, and which leaves the department still $26,000,000 to go and come on before the maximum of $400,000,000 is reached.

The balances held by the Treasury are reported to be $84,250,000 gold, and $780,000 currency.

Money in Pittsburgh is quiet, and no great demand manifests itself from good borrowers. "The poor ye always have with you," and the chronic borrower is still croaking over the closeness of the market.

Of the Philadelphia market the *Ledger* says:

The money market appears to be in more liberal supply of funds for temporary use, and borrowers find no difficulty in obtaining the needed accommodations. Call loans are made upon prime securities at 6 per cent, as the prevailing rate. Strictly first-class commercial paper is in better request from dealers at 10 per cent. per annum discount, and there have been some negotiations at 8 and 9 per cent upon very choice names. On Government collateral three to four months' paper is quoted as low as 1 per cent. There is a steady increase of currency and the situation in commercial circles steadily improves.

The "cheap transportation" question has been made a subject of discussion in a caucus of the Western and Southern members of Congress. The drift of the discussion was in favor of some action being taken by Congress on the subject, but it was considered inopportune to urge the matter at present or during the continuance of our monetary difficulties. Action was urged in favor of the improvement of Mississippi river navigation, but in a non-committal manner. Four claims of various routes were advocated and a resolution was adopted looking to a permanent organization of members pledged to the enforcement of some plan for relieving the West from the heavy charges for freights on their products.

—On the subject of resumption the *Journal of Commerce* has a forcible article, from which we make the following extract:

There is no doubt some truth in the assertion that with any fixed amount of irredeemable paper currency, however large, its unrestricted use will lead by a natural law to a financial stringency favorable to a return of par redemption. But any measure which takes away all the binding force of the stringency at the moment it begins to be felt, by eloongating the band or giving it unlimited "elasticity," in its very nature must operate, until in itself it become excess, as more flexibility to meet payments is shown to be, it hits to a nicety the common sentiment of the masses of the people. They favor special payments in gold coin, and examination of the paper currency in the concrete. They approve of par redemption as a matter of sentiment; but they favor a market that never denies the borrower (like a questionable self-indulgence) as a present experience.

Those who criticise the President for his seeming contradictions will do well to ask themselves if they are not fairly represented in his mixed periods. They are in favor of specie payments? Yes. They long to come when they can use the smallest note a dollar of irredeemable currency in the country? Yes. Will the non-interest bearing notes be sufficient necessary to that consummation? No. Will they submit willingly to any process of compression that will bring, however slowly, the result? No. This is emphatically public sentiment. And the reason of the paradox claimed, then, is the natural order of things, the money market turns so that the way to specie payments can be plainly seen, and nothing is more natural than as new bech g the Government to place fresh barriers in that ragged path, if virtue could be preserved without self-denial they would all be saints. This is the pith of the whole matter. Liquidation, shrinkage of nominal values, pinching, privation—these are part of the necessary steps to specie payments; economy and a greater grasp of one's own resources must be accepted with the result.

Those who treat publicly of these questions know this, if they know anything about the subjects they discuss. Some hope to inaugurate the par redemption by a short, sharp, summary process, and leave all the pain and self-denial to come afterward. But it will not succeed. The very moment the operation is felt to be resisted by the people, and no means can be reconstdered will ever prove effectual. This we give as a matter of fact. All those amusing correspondents who insist that we shall devise and recommend some new method to accomplish this object they may as well exercise no longer. It is not the plan, but the heart, that is wanting. The paper-money fetish has had the debauching, demoralizing effect that was predicted to it ever since its first impunity. It is not "how to reform?" but, "have we a heart for it?" that is the question to be solved. The way is plain enough to willing feet.

—The falling table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street:

December 17, 1873.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	3:30 P.M.
Gold	112	112¼	112¼	112	111⅝	111¾
Canton	63	63	64			
Western Union Telegraph	74¼	74¼	74¼	74	74	74
Quicksilver	37¾	37¾	38			
Pacific Mail	38¾	39	39¼	39¼	39¼	39¼
Adams Express	91½	91½	90	90	90	90
Wells Fargo Express	71½	71½	71½	71½	71½	71½
American Express	58½	58½	58½	58½	58½	58½
United States Express	67½	67½	67½	67½	67½	67½
New York Central	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾
Erie	25	25	24¾	24¾	24¾	24¾
Michigan Central	93	93	93	93	93	93
Michigan Southern	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾
Illinois Central	112	112	112	112	112	112
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾
Chicago & Northwestern	55¾	55¾	55¾	55¾	55¾	55¾
Do preferred	84	84	84	84	84	84
Rock Island	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½
Fort Wayne	112	112	112	112	112	112
Ohio and Mississippi	31	31	30¾	30¾	30¾	30¾
Union Pacific	31¾	31¾	31¾	31¾	31¾	30¾
Chicago and Alton		102	104			
Boston, Hartford and Erie	2¾	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Harlem	121	121	121	122	122	122

—The following are the quotations for Government and State bonds received by wire from New York to-day:

GOVERNMENTS.	Morn.	Noon.	Even'g.
1881, coupons	120	120⅛	120⅛
5-20s, 1865	115	115	115
5-20s, 1864	116⅛	116⅛	116⅛
5-20s, 1865	116¼	116¼	116¼
5-20s, new	116¼	116¼	116¼
5-20s, 1867	119¼	119¼	119⅜
5-20s, 1868	119¼	119¼	119¼
10-40s, reg	112	112	112⅜
10-40s, coupons	112½	112½	112⅝
Currency 6s	113¼	113¼	113¼
New 5s	113	113¼	113¼
STATE BONDS.			
Tennessees, new	81	81	82
Tennessee, new	81	81	82
South Carolinas, July	11	11	11
South Carolinas, old	20	20	20
Missouri 6s	93	94	94

—Robinson Bros., bankers, Fourth avenue, furnish the following report of active stocks at the Philadelphia Board:

Penna. R. R.	66⅛	
Penna. Scrip	93¾	
Reading	56⅜	
United Cos's N. J.	118	
Oil Creek	15	
Lehigh Valley	45	
A. V. R. R. 7-30	89	
Central Trans.	40¾	
Elts, Cn. & St L. bonds	65¾	

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, December 17, 1873.

The following are the entire receipts of the leading articles for this market, by river and rail, for the twenty-four hours ending to-day:

Flour, bbls	1,299	Wheat, sacks	192
Apples, bbls	86	Corn, sacks	767
Butter, pkgs	33	Barley, sacks	170
Cheese, boxes	200	Oats, sacks	749
Bacon, pcs	10,000	Rye sacks	170
Bacon, lbs	82		

The market indicates a vast improvement in the feeling, and a general increased activity was everywhere manifest. The flour and grain markets is very active, and owing to the limited supply on hand are very firm, though no change has been effected. Coffees are still excited and 34c ₱ lb, for the roasted article was reached to-day. In the other branches a fair amount of business is being transacted at our former quotations. We therefore omit our extended report in detail.

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce received during the past two weeks:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	7,672	7,439	15,111
Apples, bbls	1,530	1,641	3,171
Cheese, lbs	1,699	1,659	3,358
Corn, sks	2,705	4,452	7,157
Oats, sks	2,648	3,944	6,592
Barley, sks	1,209	2,775	3,984
Rye, sks	1,050	1,950	2,940
Bacon, sks	3,118	3,990	7,108
Butter, pkgs	147	208	355
Bacon, pcs	27,250	40,800	68,050
Bacon, lbs	139	322	461

Trade is higher, with large sales. Sugars are weak, and no prospect of an advance this year. Should Congress impose the duty recommended to them by the Secretary of the Treasury on tea and coffee, we will see very high prices for a year or two, as the supply will unquestionably cease.

—The current rates are: green Rio coffee, choice, 24c; strictly prime, 23½c; prime 23¾c; good 23c; fair 22½c; green Java 32c@35c ₱ lb; roasted only in papers, 34c; in bulk 33½c; Java in papers, 40c.

Philadelphia Live Stock Market.

PHILADELPHIA, December 15.—Cattle in fair demand and advanced; sales, 3,000 head extra Pennsylvania and Western steers at $7 25@7 50; fair to good at $6 50@7; common $4@5; choice $7 75@8. Sheep in fair demand; sales, 9,000 head at $5@6 25. Hogs higher; sales, 7,000 head at $7 50@7 75.

PITTSBURGH LIVE STOCK MARKET—WEEKLY REVIEW.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, December 18, 1873.

RECEIPTS.

	Cattle. No. head.	Hogs. No. head.	Sheep. No. head.	Horses. No. head.	Mules. No. head.
Thursday, Dec. 11	1,060	5,775	400	15	....
Friday, Dec. 12	1,310	1,200	300	30	....
Saturday, Dec. 13	740	1,100	....	....	....
Sunday, Dec. 14	1,200	4,000	....	....	....
Monday, Dec. 15	1,342	2,500	3,000	18	....
Tuesday, Dec. 16	1,320	5,400	2,850	50	24
Wednesday, Dec. 17	Till noon nothing in y'd master's book.				
Total	7,021	17,160	6,550	73	24
Last week	6,744	22,000	8,315	305	30

SHIPMENTS.

	Cattle. No. head.	Hogs. No. head.	Sheep. No. head.	Horses. No. head.	Mules. No. hd.
Thursday, Dec. 11	1,872	4,100	400	15	68
Friday, Dec. 12	1,868	4,100	400	....	....
Saturday, Dec. 13	621	2,241	200	....	....
Monday, Dec. 15	1,411	5,215	....	15	....
Tuesday, Dec. 16	720	2,800	....	....	....
Wednesday, Dec. 17	340	1,000	1,600	....	....
Total	6,669	20,215	2,600	60	68
Last week	6,716	22,225	8,425	30	102

Cattle.

The receipts of cattle this week so far have been fair. The quality of the stock is a mixture of all grades and kinds, from fancy Christmas cattle down to the most common scalawags. It is said that the proportion of good stock here this week is greater than for some time past. Among the lots are some extra cattle which are held by owners as high as eight and eight and one-half cents, but seem to be dull sale, as buyers do not care to take hold of them at the prices asked. At Allegheny on Monday, Holmes, Lafferty & Co. sold six fancy steers, as good as any person would want, and all they brought was $7 50. Jacob Needy also sold an extra heifer, weighing 1,815 lbs, at $7 50 per lbs. The above cattle were brought here for Christmas and owners expected over 8c for them. Judging from the talk of butchers, we think that on account of hard times and scarcity of money, not so many fancy cattle will be handled by them, or, if they do, it will be at low figures, and shippers who have this kind of stock will have to hold over or make up their minds for low prices. The attendance of buyers this week is good, but the majority of them are from Philadelphia, and seem to have set their heads together to force prices down. As usual they complain about the unsatisfactory state of their market and their inability to pay the prices asked here for cattle and have a margin left for time money and trouble. The prospect is that holders will have to make a concession in order to have an active market and close out consignments. At this writing some cattle have been sold at prices ½c below last week's rates. Following are about the prices ruling:

Extra 1,400 to 1,500 lbs steers, fine and smooth.....$ 6 25
Extra 1,200 lbs.....5 75 to 6 00
Prime 1,200 lbs.....5 25 to 5 50
Prime 1,100 lbs.....4 50 to 5 00
Fair 1,000 lbs.....4 00 to 4 25
Common.....3 50 to 3 75

Hogs.

The receipts of hogs this week were fair but some lighter than last week by about 3,000 head. The attendance of buyers is good, a fair number of country dealers being in the market. Trade has ruled active since our last report until this week, when the time of closing our last report we noted that the market was active and firm, with the inclination of prices upward. Then $5.15 was the highest figure ruling for extra Philadelphia. Since that time the market has advanced some each day till on Tuesday $5 75 was paid for one load of prime hogs, the figure was considered a shade above the market. To-day while the receipts are not heavy, western advices are unfavorable, and the inclination of prices down being about 10c lower than on Tuesday. Following are the figures the different grades are selling at:

Extra Philadelphia $5 50; prime do $5 40 to 5 45; do Yorkers, $5 25; fair do $5 15 to 5 30; common $5 00.

Sheep.

The receipts of sheep for the week ending to-day have been light. The quality of the stock generally good, a fair proportion of fancy stock being on sale. One bunch of extra sold to-day, 84 pounds average, at fifty head by Holmes, Lafferty & Co. at 7c. The attendance of buyers is good, and all the best grades sell well; common a little slow. The market is firm and steady, showing no signs of lower prices. Following are the rates current:

Extra, 100 lbs fine wool.....$5 25
Extra, 95 lbs fine wool.....5 00
Prime 90 lbs.....4 75@4 85
Fair 85 lbs.....4 50@4 65

Cattle.

HOLMES, LAFFERTY & CO, SOLD.

No.	Weight.	Price.	No.	Weight.	Price.
10	10,360	$6 00	1	1,050	$5 00
14	15,240	6 80	5	4,970	6 00
16	22,680	6 00	2	3,500	5 50
20	22,810	5 25	6	14,820	4 50
4	6,500	6 00	21	19,140	4 00
3	3,260	5 50	5	5,000	3 75
1	1,250	5 00	1	1,200	3 00
16	16,950	4 75			

HEDGES, HUFF & CO. SOLD.

20	18,240	$6 00	1	2,410	$4 75
14	15,720	6 00	1	1,580	3 50
12	12,050	7 25	1	1,250	3 25
17	17,030	6 75	14	12,480	3 00
5	5,450	5 80	1	1,090	4 50
18	19,980	6 62	1	1,870	4 75
49	60,180	5 50	52	50,830	4 25
16	21,710	5 70	1	1,480	4 00
1	1,940	6 00	36	40,260	4 62
3	3,700	6 00	38	9,540	5 20

HAZLEWOOD, BLACKSTOCK & NEWTON SOLD.

*16	18 000	$6 50	21	19,550	$4 12
30	42,790	6 12			

Hogs.

HOLMES, LAFFERTY & CO. SOLD.

No.	Weight.	Price.	No.	Weight.	Price.
28	7,260	$4 65	61	18,060	$5 10
41	10,930	5 00	58	13,280	4 60
19	4,340	4 80	20	3,160	4 80
26	6,980	5 15	54	14,370	4 65
26	6,810	5 10	1	2,250	4 10
69	8,050	6 62	21	5,810	5 15
12	3,640	4 50	60	17,120	5 15
114	34,990	5 00	35	9,350	5 12
267	68,890	5 20	126	29,050	5 00
8	2,190	3 50	4	4,330	4 60
24	6,490	5 15	8	1,640	5 00
4	640	5 00	20	3,330	4 75
54	13,910	5 25	55	16,300	5 30
7	2,668	4 60	67	13,930	5 00
60	15,720	5 25	34	7,450	5 00
72	9,280	4 75	6	2,110	4 60
7	1,630	5 10	50	12,850	5 20
30	5,910	4 85	53	14,140	5 15
61	17,120	5 10	29	6,650	5 15
74	12,880	4 60	44	12,930	5 00
79	2,250	4 70	123	35,110	5 30
46	13,250	4 65	48	13,580	5 00
76	22,060	5 20	63	16,440	4 75
72	13,700	4 87	120	22,330	4 80
72	13,660	4 90	88	16,750	4 85
29	14,570	5 25	6	1,820	5 00
28	8,730	5 25	25	5,560	4 75
142	11,040	5 00	58	11,330	4 85
96	16,230	5 00	95	9,010	4 10
19	4,560	5 25	35	4,870	5 00
100	29,490	5 12	27	6,600	5 00
69	20,580	5 50	177	21,650	4 95
29	6,480	5 30	53	9,180	5 00
76	7,820	5 30	40	8,500	5 00
69	19,640	5 00	39	7,750	5 00
168	24,500	5 30	27	5,760	5 25
182	21,970	5 50	114	26,260	5 25
182	12,750	5 30	64	10,150	5 25
40	9,940	5 50	74	10,340	5 50
80	9,690	5 30	78	12,950	5 30
40	9,940	5 25	78	12,850	5 25
32	9,210	5 50	60	11,760	5 50
71	21,630	5 50	49	11,740	5 30
63	16,900	5 10	181	37,030	5 55
54	11,610	5 25	43	8,750	5 50
51	14,050	5 50	15	3,190	5 40
96	22,800	5 20	12	3,430	5 10
72	12,730	5 62	93	25,710	5 50
45	15,660	5 60	645	147,390	5 25
5	1,610	5 10	67	14,960	5 40
125	21,680	5 25	82	23,540	5 35
79	13,340	5 20	114	26,070	5 35
11	1,660	4 50	49	14,420	5 45
41	9,920	5 15	546	121,840	5 35
41	11,180	5 10	46	11,910	5 15
79	3,880	5 20	42	8,400	5 10
79	15,860	6 10	22	5,290	5 20
36	7,440	5 25	14	3,130	5 50
6	1,250	5 50	4	750	5 65
45	11,520	5 50	53	10,820	5 20
7	1,600	5 40	18	6,690	5 30
14	3,500	5 20	194	57,520	5 62
68	19,480	5 60			

HEDGES, HUFF & CO. SOLD.

69	15,580	$4 70	42	10,930	$5 10
76	6,950	5 05	102	22,500	4 70
56	9,050	4 50	45	12,020	5 10
78	15,220	4 70	46	11,480	5 10
78	15,360	4 70	16	3,360	5 10
39	10,100	5 10	12	3,210	4 35
13	1,480	4 75	26	1,620	5 15
73	11,710	4 62½	12	20,910	5 00
52	9,990	5 00	44	22,010	4 55
93	19,050	5 10	44	22,930	4 70
62	16,180	4 50	85	9,380	4 75
137	27,320	4 90	33	9,220	5 25
32	11,250	5 25	46	7,610	5 10
24	6,990	5 15	12	2,960	5 15
69	6,650	5 15	59	12,880	5 20
60	12,320	5 25	46	13,240	5 15
128	35,110	5 25	1	590	5 15
73	13,780	5 20	72	16,070	5 30
182	47,870	5 35	42	11,040	5 26
74	14,570	5 30	38	8,731	5 25
69	20,580	5 30	60	19,610	5 30
40	6,480	5 30	20	7,850	5 20
40	4,870	5 30	37	7,560	5 62
40	9,940	5 50	82	9,210	5 50
93	21,110	5 50	52	13,540	5 55
125	21,680	5 25	82	17,720	5 60
275	72,720	5 62	45	11,560	5 53
15	1,150	5 10	60	12,760	5 60
21	3,610	5 75	14	2,150	5 60
8	2,410	5 60	171	49,550	5 62
89	22,210	5 25			

Sheep.

HOLMES, LAFFERTY & CO.

90	7,830	$4 10	178	14,220
61	5,194	4 62½	125	11,260
256	24,860	5 00	182	16,390
166	16,340	4 64	167	11,840
104	9,280	5 00	264	17,760
175	15,260	4 00	7	450
124	10,490	4 50	71	5,490
50	6,950	7 00		

HEDGES, HUFF & CO. SOLD

86	19,070	$4 50	196	15,480
41	3,044	4 12½	68	9,360
73	7,430	5 40	100	8,810

HAZLEWOOD, BLACKSTOCK & NEWTON SOLD

204	16,736	$4 25	164	12,260
117	8,210	4 12½	32	head
114	13,130	5 45	176	16,840
114	16,260	6 50	175	17,750
154	13,170	4 50		

Cattle.

The receipts of cattle this week by the different railroads centering at the Union stock yards were some twenty-three cars, or about four hundred and twenty-five head. In addition to these, there were drov s from Washington, Beaver, Butler and Greene counties, sufficient to make about seven hundred and fifty head as the total offerings. In point of quality the offerings in general were the medium and common grades, though among them were quite a number of good cattle, in fact more of that grade than has offered here for some time. Holmes, Lafferty & Co. sold for J. R. and B. B. Alsdorf, of Licking county, Ohio, one head of extra cattle, said to be the finest in the Allegheny market for some time; they sold at $7 50 per hundred lbs. Jacob Neesly also sold one extra or fancy heifer for Mr. Brooks, Stark county, Ohio, at 7½c a lb. These were the highest prices reached. On the whole the market was the best here for some time, prices being at least one quarter cent higher on all grades, except very common which sold at about last week's figures. There was active from the opening to the close. On Sunday quite a large number of cattle were disposed of at wholesale.

Prices.

Extra fancy steers, $7 00 to $7 50; extra, $6 75; prime, $6 50@6 60; good, $5 75 to $6 25; fair, $5 00 to $5 50; common, $4 00 to $4 75; inferior, $2 75 to $3 50.

Arrivals.

Following are the arrivals of live stock for the week ending to-day:

	Cars.
Marks & Bro., from Chicago	1
C. Bergner, from Indianapolis	1
Holmes, L. & Co., from Selma	1
Saddler & H., from Dunkirk	1
Jacobs & A. & K., from Sandusky	2
Hezlewood & B., from Upper Sandusky	1
Head & T., from Orville	1
P. Snyder, from Orville	1
J. M. Unger, from Canton	1
Holmes, L. & Co., from Castalia	2
Marks & B., U. S. Yards	1
C. McCurdy, from Bridgeport	1
C. M. Hines, from Canal Dover	2
Robert Frater, from Bridgeport	1
S. Tood, from Smith & Ferri, Kansas	1
J. K. & R. Baldrofs, from Bellair

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1873.

Wanted.

WEEKLY COMMERCIALS of the following dates to complete our files: February 8th, July 13th and September 28th 1872, and March 1st, 1873.

MR. STEPHENS says that all statesmen are demagognes. That depends upon what you mean by "statesmen." If TWEED is a "statesman," as he claims, STEPHENS is undoubtedly right.

THERE are over twenty defaulting county treasurers in Ohio, and one has just been sent to the penitentiary. Such Democratic counties as Butler and Fairfield furnish the bulk of them.

DURING the season of lake navigation just past, accidents occurred to 1,318 vessels, as against 745 in 1872. The property lost or damaged amounted to $3,076,000, an increase of nearly $1,000,000, more than last year.

ALL of the members of the House that have yet made speeches against repealing the Salary bill are Democrats except one—NEGLEY, of Pennsylvania. RANDALL contests with him the championship of back-pay, but, although it is a tight race, our man is a little ahead.

MEMPHIS has the meanest man. She has just arrested a fellow named CICALLA on three indictments, charging him with stealing relief supplies sent to the yellow fever sufferers of that city, while temporarily serving in the capacity of Mayor.

IT HAS been generally understood that when a man entered the service of a railroad company, he took all risks of loss of life or limb, and had no claim upon the corporation for damages. A Missouri judge, however, decides that railways must pay for the privilege of killing their employees, the same as passengers.

THE Harrisburg *Patriot* states that there is no truth in the report, telegraphed from that city, a few days ago, that Colonel THOMAS A. SCOTT had effected an arrangement with Hon. ASA PACKER, President of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company, for the means necessary to complete the construction of the Texas and Pacific Railroad.

THE drought throughout the West, to which we alluded last week, has ended, the rainy weather which we have lately experienced here, having extended over the entire West. Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri have been thoroughly flooded, passing in a couple of days from extreme drought to extreme wet. All the upper tributaries of the Mississippi are now in high flood.

WHERE is the man for the emergency? When the bold movement which shall put an end to plundering and restore the good old days of Democratic economy?—*Albany Argus.*

Well, he is understood to be in retirement, engaged in making preparations for the publication of his autobiography. Address WILLIAM M. TWEED, Democratic "statesman," Penitentiary, Blackwell's Island.

AT A late meeting of managers of Western railways, a resolution was adopted that no free passes shall be granted on any account after the first of January next. As a similar resolve was made some months ago and broken almost before the ink with which it was written had dried, we are not encouraged to believe that the customary passes will be long withheld.

SOME Congressman has discovered how to do it, as well as how not to do it. He is afraid to vote to restore the franking privilege; but is in favor of getting it back, substantially, by authorizing a new post-office stamp to be put on public documents—at the public expense, of course. Better be honest about it, gentlemen. Restore the franking privilege to yourselves, boldly, like men, or pay your own postage. No sneaking.

IT IS gratifying to observe that there is an earnest disposition on the part of the longest-headed legislators to delay all matters touching our currency and taxation until after the Christmas holidays, so that they may take advantage of any favorable turn affairs may take. Possibly, when the return of spring shall impart cheerfulness and vigor to our various industries, it may turn out that the Inflationists will discover the country has no need of their services.

THERE seems, from present indications, but little probability that either the Postal Savings bank scheme or the Postal Telegraph hobby of Mr. CRESWELL, will be indorsed by Congress. The first proposition, it is stated, has fallen exceedingly flat, while as respects the second, the President of the Western Union Telegraph Company expresses himself convinced that the sentiment of the country is not so much averse to the scheme, or members are so little interested in it, that there is no necessity for him to remain at Washington to oppose it.

AN IMPORTANT decision on the question of the right of a State to control the charges of railroads, has just been made by the Supreme Court of the United States. The case which brought out the discision was a writ against the Northwestern Railroad for charging a double rate for freight from Chicago to Marshalltown, Iowa, and that the Court holds Iowa competent for the State of Iowa to regulate railroad freights, because such a law is within the power of the State to protect its citizens from imposition.

ENGLISH CHEMISTS have recently made a series of experiments to test the relative power of various reputed antiseptic agents. The results are reported to have been that sulphate of copper and carbolic acid were the most powerful, with the exception of bichromate of potassium. This was the most powerful of all the agents tried. It appeared to be quite equal to carbolic acid in preventing the development of fungi, and it was much superior to it and all others in limiting (none of them prevent altogether) the development of animalcule. It was also by far the most powerful as a deodorant.

THE meetings held in Washington of members of Congress, who favor legislation on the question of Transportation, show that while all the members agree that Congress ought to do something to promote the cause of cheap transportation, they all differ as to how it shall be done. Some want the Erie canal enlarged; others want the mouths of the Mississippi dredged out; others prefer the St. Phillips canal; and not a few want canals made in other directions. Until they can all settle down in favor of some one plan, their action will be useless; and there seems little reason to hope that they will ever agree upon details.

A WATER panic prevails out West. That is to say, there is in that section a shrinkage of this indispensable element, so extraordinary as to be altogether without parallel in the history of the settlement of that portion of our country. It is stated that such a scarcity has never been known since the country was first occupied, and the oldest inhabitant is at fault for a precedent. At a number of points the Mississippi is lower than it has ever been before, while on several railroads in Iowa, the tanks are entirely dry for stretches for many miles. Other parts of the western country are similarly afflicted, farmers and others being sorely embarrassed to procure water for their animals and ordinary domestic purposes. Great numbers of wells have been begun. Everybody is calling on the clouds to go into immediate liquidation.

A BOSTON COURT rendered a decision, recently, in an insurance case which will be of interest, although, perhaps, of no binding force, in this State. A fire occurred which destroyed property on which the insurance had just previously expired, and had not been formally renewed through the neglect of an insurance agent to collect the newly accrued premium. The court decided that the plaintiff should recover his insurance, although he had not paid his premium or actually taken out his policy, the decision being based on the facts demonstrated by the evidence that the plaintiff had made a verbal contract with the agent, his custom having been to insure with that agent, and to pay the premiums whenever the agent sent to collect them. A very large proportion of the insurance business done by our best companies is transacted through agents, who keep running accounts both with the companies and their customers.

ALEXANDER STEPHENS does not appear to concur in the average Bourbon estimate of President GRANT. Here is what, in conversation with a friend, he said, a few days ago concerning the *bete noir* of Democracy:

"When I first met him, in 1866, I made up my mind that Grant was one of the most remarkable men of the age. I said so, and wrote to that effect, before Grant was ever thought of for the Presidency, and every year since has strengthened my conviction. He has shown a wonderfully clear conception of his duties and powers as President. He has executed the laws as he has found them, and is as little inclined to usurp power as any President we ever had; in this respect he is a great contrast to Jackson, who had an imperious will. Even in the Louisiana troubles he has illustrated his character. He enforced the decrees of the United States Court, and when asked to send another Judge to New Orleans in place of Judge Durell, he replied that he could not interfere with the assignment of Judges made by the Supreme Court. Not much Cæsarism in that."

The Democratic press has, since the assembling of Congress, with general accord set forth the marvelous intellectual insight and prescience of Mr. STEPHENS. It is to be hoped they will feel duly happy in having their belief in his extraordinary powers and qualities thus speedily and completely vindicated.

SENTENCE OF BAZAINE.

Foreigners are greatly divided in opinion concerning Marshal BAZAINE'S sentence, and there is no reason to believe that Frenchmen are entirely unanimous on the subject. Among the French residents of New York, a few, we learn, openly profess sympathy for the condemned soldier as having merited a different judgment by his long and honorable career in the service of France, as well as in view of the circumstances under which he made his disastrous mistakes. Ignorant of the mental qualities and political prejudices of the Frenchmen who take this view, one may suspect that their moderation, the result of distance from the patriotic atmosphere of France, foretokens the feelings with which future generations of the French people will look back upon BAZAINE'S condemnation. That the present generation are quite unable, at least in their actual temper, to judge the Marshal with any measure of fairness and justice has been manifest from the first. The crowd at the Trianon which warmly cheered when the verdict was rendered, merely gave expression to the popular sentiment which, before and during the trial, has demanded the punishment of the most conspicuous commander clearly identified with the prostration of France. Average Frenchmen have never permitted themselves to doubt that, in the reverses of the war treason was everywhere and constantly active and successful, and that, in the tremendous overthrow of Sedan and Metz, there must have been a traitor of position and power commensurate to the magnitude of the catastrophe. Hence, when Marshal BAZAINE became the subject of legal investigation, he at once became the focus on which the suspicions and resentments of his compatriots were concentrated. Millions of excited imaginations, hitherto groping in the dark for an object known to be near but ever eluding the grasp, immediately recognized in the imprisoned Marshal the long sought for mighty traitor, and like the Egyptians on discovering the much desired bull, APIS, they shouted, "We have found him! let us rejoice together!" Certainly there will seem little exaggeration in this statement to those who have read M. RIVIERE'S indictment or account of BAZAINE'S offenses and shortcomings, in which by ingenious inference and deduction and by a dexterous placing together of fact and suppositions, the accused is shown to be responsible for nearly all the calamities of the war. Of course, it was M. RIVIERE'S duty to put the case as strongly as possible against the Marshal on trial, but foreigners can hardly help doubting whether, in their existing mood, and in the presence of surrounding influences, even the most high-minded judges were capable of apprehending the defense in its full force.

Some points urged in defense, which to impartial foreigners appear weighty, were, we know, received with slight favor by either the court or the French public. One of these points was the utterly demoralized condition of the army in Metz. Discipline completely destroyed, if ever possessed, the officers having literally no control of their men, and the courage and spirit of a majority of both officers and men wholly broken, the army with which BAZAINE, in the opinion of the court and the nation, ought to have been able to cut his way through the German lines was little better than a rabble. This fact used to be somewhat freely conceded, even by Frenchmen, but at the late trial there were few, if any, competent witnesses to present it with clearness to the court, while most of the testimony, the only testimony welcomed, pointed the other way. The officers examined showed amazing or even desperate valor in confessing what they would have done, if BAZAINE had only given them a chance.

Another important fact in the defense of which little was made, or rather it was made to tell against the Marshal, was the mere vastness of the inclosed army. It would seem plain to common sense that, where a smaller force might break through a beleaguering army and escape in large part, a host of two hundred thousand men, completely hemmed in by the besiegers might find such an attempt foolish and impossible. But French military vanity refused to entertain any suggestion of the sort. To the popular mind it seems a disgrace that two hundred thousand French soldiers could be thus caged, and therefore there must be a traitor to account for the infamy.

On the other hand, it must be recollected that in entering into negotiations with the enemy, as BAZAINE certainly did, he violated a positive and well understood law of his country. In meddling at all with politics and in refusing to recognize the government proclaimed in place of the empire, BAZAINE was equally guilty of lawlessness. In defense he argued that, his position was entirely exceptional and unprecedented, France having no longer any tangible government or central authority; a situation never contemplated in the law which he was bound to observe. This plea, however, the court refused to accept as a valid excuse. Policy, we suppose, seems to for bid now more than ever that military commanders shall be allowed to reject a government duly established or proclaimed in France. Policy, too, seems to require with equal Emphasis that military officers shall not in any way concern themselves with politics. Military discipline also demands an example, or as VOLTAIRE said of the execution of Admiral BYNG, it seems expedient to shoot one general *pour encourager les autres*.

Though all there reasons may have influenced and may serve to apologize for the decision of the court, the prevalent impression, at least outside of France, will most likely be that BAZAINE was condemned as a sacrifice to national vanity. And this impression will not be changed, but rather confirmed by the recommendation to mercy, and by the mitigation of the sentence; both the recommendation and the mitigation having been all along confidently anticipated by observers who looked for the Marshal's condemnation as being the sentence demanded by the popular feeling.

POLITICS AND HYPOCRISY.

TWEED'S registering of himself at the penitentiary as by occupation a "statesman" has, on account of the comical suggestions of the act, attracted more attention than another entry made by him in the same book. Questioned by the warden as to his "religion," the mighty swindler replied that he was of "none." Possibly the Boss intended to deny that he belonged to any one of the many religious sects of the land rather than to confess the entire absence of religious sentiment which, however this may be, a German contemporary, taking for granted that the latter was his meaning, finds in it ground of commendation as giving him "the advantage of most other eminent American scoundrels in being no repulsive religious hypocrite," and our contemporary goes on to assert that "most of our corrupt politicians call themselves Christian statesmen, under which pretense they practice the greatest rascalities." An assertion so sweeping, if made by a single person in the heat of invective or discussion, might be unworthy of contradiction or remark; but this charge, varying somewhat in terms, while substantially the same in tenor, may often be met with in newspapers, especially in those of the German language. Few Americans of native birth could, we believe, make the charge in good faith; it is, upon the whole, so far from being founded in truth. On the other hand, persons of foreign birth and education, either imperfectly or not at all acquainted with the general spirit of the American churches, may be easily led by superficial appearances to make such a mistake.

It must be admitted that wherever the church in any form posseses a real hold upon the mass of a population, hypocrisy will be more or less prevalent. "Assume the virtue if you have it not" is a practical precept which always has been and always will be followed, whenever a certain virtue is regarded as a necessary prerequisite to prosperity or success in life, and no truth is more clearly taught in ecclesiastical history, as well as by common observation than that the outward marks of evangelical piety may be so counterfeited as to recommend the impostor to the good will and good offices of sincere believers. Such hypocrisy is one of the greatest evils of an established church, and when, besides being established by law, its influence deeply pervades the popular heart, as in Scotland during several centuries, the practice of assuming the livery of heaven to serve the devil in, is likely to become still more common and revolting. No doubt, there is much of this assumed virtue in the United States to-day. Doubtless multitudes "profess religion" who possess little or none of it. One joins the church for the sake of society, another for the sake of patronage, another for the sake of popularity, and so on through the entire catalogue of selfish motives. So much may be safely affirmed in consideration of the general character of human nature and the conditions of American life. And yet it is still true that there is no other country in which the Christian religion exerts a more decided and effectual influence on the people: there is no other country in which Christian teaching more powerfully affects the popular life. We believe further that there is no other country in which there is less of conscious, designing hypocrisy in proportion to the genuine spiritual life of the churches. As to the alleged religious pretensions of corrupt politicians, it is in fact wonderful how relatively seldom the piety real or affected of a candidate for political office is put forward as a recommendation, or even mentioned as a ground of preference. Indeed, many lament that so little importance is attached to the religious profession of candidates even by religious people, and certainly among the least instructed sectarians, religious pretensions on the part of aspirants for office are looked upon with a degree of suspicion which renders them almost nugatory as a means of appealing to popular favor. Hence we have literally none of those lay defenders of religion in high places who, as the secular champions of the church, have at various times in Europe worked such fearful oppression and misery. Here a man may be loudly recognized as a Christian statesman, and he may own the title with complacency, but failing by his life to justify the distinction, the name does not hide either failure or offense; at the most, it secures him time for defense or the attempt to make one, before condemnation.

But we had nearly forgotten Mr. TWEED, whose religion was at one time supposed to be a matter of no doubt, if liberality or even gorgeous munificence towards an institution implied peculiar reverence for its object. It seems, however, that the assumption was a pure mistake, if the contemporary quoted above rightly interprets the Boss's confession of faith. The Boss frankly owns himself of no religion, and is therefore what used to be called a *miscreant* (etymologically a *mis* or *minus* believer,) a name, by the way, often bestowed upon TWEED by persons who had no suspicion of its two-fold application in his case. We are able to perceive no justice in the praise for candor or superiority to hypocrisy, of which some of our contemporaries think him worthy.

In truth, the man was a colossal hypocrite of the most dangerous description. He can not be wholly acquitted even of something like religious hypocrisy in his apparent partiality for the Catholic Church. Let that be as it may, of the hypocrisy of benevolence he was certainly guilty. Some famous robbers, ROBIN HOOD for example, in a spirit of real though mistaken kindness, have given to the poor what they took from the rich. TWEED also was wish his gifts to the poor, and was widely hailed as the poor man's friend; but unlike ROBIN HOOD, he stole impartially from the poor as well as the wealthy.

"With one hand he put
A penny in the urn of poverty,
And with the other took a shilling out."

PROFESSOR AGASSIZ.

Prof. DE CANDOLLE, of Geneva, in his book—*Histoire des Sciences et des Savants depuis deux Siecles*—points out the remarkable number of men of science who were the sons of Protestant ministers. He names as examples LINNÆUS, HARTSOKER, EULER, JENNER, WOLLASTON, OLBERS, BLUMENBACH, ROBERT BROWN, BERZELIUS, ENCKE, MITSCHERLICH, and many more, among the rest, AGASSIZ. Prof. AGASSIZ'S father was pastor at Mottier, in the Swiss Canton Freiburg, where his celebrated son was born on the 28th of May, 1807. Having received a careful education in his native country, he studied during several years at Heidelberg and Munich, where he especially devoted himself to the subjects of comparative anatomy and natural history. His first published work was a description of the fishes of new varieties collected by the celebrated naturalist, SPIX, in Brazil—a labor which may have had some influence in inspiring AGASSIZ'S own explorations in Brazil many years afterwards. His second work was a natural history of the fresh water fishes of central Europe, a work which was never completed. This third book was an account of original researches on fossil fishes and his fourth was a monograph on the fossil fishes of the Devonian system in England. Three or four other books by him, still having fishes for their subject, appeared and made the author favorably known as a naturalist, but his first brilliant success was his work, entitled "Studies on the Glaciers," which was published in 1840. It shed a bright light not only on the subject of glaciers but on the subject of geology, in which latter science the book forms an epoch. In connection with ARNOLD GUYOT, now of Princeton College, and DESOR, AGASSIZ in 1847 published an account of his earlier researches on glaziers, and thus greatly extended his reputation. Unfortunately, however, AGASSIZ in the fullness and frankness of his scientific enthusiasm, had admitted a Scotchman, afterwards known as Principal FORBES, to a sort of partnership in his investigations, and the canny Scot contrived not only to appropriate the credit of some of his associate's previous discoveries, but to make the impression, at least in the British scientific world, that AGASSIZ was trying to become famous at his (FORBES') expense. In fact, AGASSIZ was thus placed under a cloud which has only lately been dispelled through the candor and courage of Professor TYNDALL.

In 1846 AGASSIZ came to the United States, where, during many years, his European reputation, his untiring energy and unquestionable zeal in the cause of science made his name a household word throughout the land. Twenty-five years ago we had few original investigators in science, and the eminent immigrant before long, enjoyed a reputation and a degree of authority comparable to the glory of a giant among pygmies, or of a man with one eye among the blind. It was not the fault of the Swiss savant, who probably claimed for himself no more than was his due; the fault lay with those who ascribed to him more than he claimed or desired. But, the admiration awarded him, no matter how exaggerated or excessive, was rather creditable than otherwise to the citizens of the republic. It may be, however, that AGASSIZ'S popularity interfered somewhat, and perhaps considerably with the advancement of his fame among men of science. In this country he added nothing, we believe, to the reputation as a discoverer which he brought with him from Europe. He, however, extended mightily the knowledge of American natural history, and made vast collections, which may become the materials of future discoveries by other inquirers. As an apostle or missionary of science, his services have been of immense utility, and his labors in exciting and stimulating enthusiasm for knowledge will, doubtless, long continue to bear abundant fruit. His labors in illustration of scientific method in research can hardly be over-estimated. On the other hand, it will always remain a shade on Prof. AGASSIZ'S reputation that, in the evil days when slavery was all powerful in this country, he not only sanctioned the system by his doctrine of a plurality of races, but, in consideration of the alleged natural inferiority of the negro, affirmed the expediency of [illegible] AGASSIZ was a contributor to NOTT and GLIDDON'S pretentious book on the "Races of Mankind;" a book which was manifestly designed to found human servitude on the basis of profound research and which ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT characterized as the last degredation of science.

THE DEMOCRACY.

It is now given out at Washington that the Democrats, in nominating FERNANDO WOOD for Speaker of the House and Mr. THURMAN as President of the Senate *pro tem.*, had a definite object in view, and that was a preliminary movement towards the thorough organization of the Democratic party for the future. A dispatch from that city says:

"At a consultation between leading Democrats some days ago it was decided, after proper consideration of the subject, that an earnest effort ought to be made to reorganize the party, and that no more opportune moment could possibly present itself than now, at the organization of a new Congress.

"It was agreed that an Eastern man should be nominated for Speaker, and one from the West for President *pro tem.* of the Senate, and this was carried out by the selection of Mr. Wood for the first position and Mr. Thurman for the second.

"The same authority says that the Democrats in Congress are determined henceforth to be united, and endeavor to build up their party to its former strength, believing that as a Democratic party success can be achieved in the next Congressional and Presidential elections."

All right. If the Democrats think they can build their party up by putting forward such men as FERNANDO WOOD as leaders and representative men, no one has a right to object. They know best who fairly represents them and embodies in his person and character what they want understood as the principles of their party; and if FERNANDO WOOD is such an embodiment, they are entitled to the credit of frankness in saying so. There is no disputing about tastes, as was illustrated by the old woman when she kissed the cow; but it is a happy reflection to nourish that the honest masses of the country will never voluntarily range themselves under such leadership. We are glad to see the Democratic party retain its organization; and it is consistent, at least, whatever may be said of its wisdom, in its choice of a leader.

THE Secretary of the Treasury has recommended an increase of taxation as absolutely essential, if the country desires to avoid running into an increase of debt. The alternatives are either to spend less or raise more money; and there are but two ways to raise money—by borrowing and by taxation. Congress has already authorized an additional appropriation of four millions to the navy, growing out of the Cuba bluster; and as this would seem to shut out all hope of a decrease in expenditures, we are thrown back upon the necessity of either increasing our debt or of levying new taxes.

The Secretary's plan is to lay a tariff on tea and coffee, and increase the taxes on tobacco and distilled spirits. The tax on tobacco being already burdensome enough, that part of the recommendation may safely be put out of sight; but the other suggestions seem to us worthy of prompt adoption.

That Congress should hesitate about reimposing these taxes is natural enough; but your true statesman never shrinks from what is inevitable. When, many years ago, Pennsylvania was unable, for a short period, to pay the interest on her debt, the Legislature hung back for a long time from the task of levying the taxes rendered necessary by that event, dreading the unpopularity which they feared would follow such an act; but the people, it turned out, were wiser than they were thought to be, and, recognizing the necessity, submitted to the taxation without a murmur. The same will be the result in this case. The people will not stand any such nonsense as the back-pay raid on the treasury; but they will submit cheerfully to all the taxation that the necessities of the country render imperative.

WHATEVER shortcomings may in other respects be alleged against us as a people, the charge of meanness, in the sense of illiberality and parsimoniousness, cannot be sustained. For instance, the report of the Commissioner of Education shows that during the last year there was given or pledged to the various colleges of the country nearly five millions of dollars—this by private individuals, who, after being taxed by every civil organization, and by church, society, and nameless charities, have still brought these shining millions to strengthen the foundations of our temples of learning. Better still, this vast sum is but a part of the generous gifts of the people for educational purposes; the total amount of private benefactions for such objects, during the period named, aggregating very nearly ten millions of dollars. We have flecks and flaws enough, no doubt, but there are a good many redeeming elements in the composition of our national character, after all.

SOME folks really do not appear to know when they are well off. As a partial result of Republican administration during the past twelve years, Wisconsin is able to boast that she is practically out of debt. The State owes to its educational fund $2,233,900, and to outsiders only $18,100. The last sum it is ready to pay on demand. The current expenses of the State for the last fiscal year were $1,768,000, and the receipts for the same period were $1,774,558. At the last election, however, some of the people became infected with the foolish delusion that matters might be bettered by giving the Democracy a turn at the helm of affairs. Whether, however, they will be able to keep the ship so fairly before the wind during their watch, or show so true a reckoning at its close, may perhaps, all things taken into account, be considered a very open question.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

The Reading sheet mill has resumed operations after a suspension of several weeks.

The New Haven and Northampton Railroad has reduced the wages of most of its employees 20 per cent.

John Watt, manufacturer of cotton checks, ginghams, etc., running forty-eight looms and employing eighty hands, in Philadelphia, has closed doors.

Several of the shoe factories in Dover, N. H., are about to resume business after a few weeks' rest. Leighton & Drew's, Thurston & Co.'s and Dennet & Co.'s are among the number.

The Montreal *Monetary Times* says that the United States hardware manufactories are finding a market in Canada to a very great extent, and are, in fact, cutting off the English trade.

The Allentown Rolling Mill Company, of Pennsylvania, have succeeded in arranging for a heavy loan upon their bonds ($400,000), as collateral security. This will enable the company to go ahead at once.

At Winchenden, Mass., the wooden ware business still remains dull, but manufacturers confidently expect a lively trade in the spring. The cotton mills are now running full time four days in the week, and say they shall run every day within a few weeks.

The weavers in Nelson Walling's woolen mill, at Millbury, struck early last week in consequence of a proposed reduction of two cents per yard on piece work, and the mill has been idle since. It is thought, however, that the weavers will accept the reduction and return to their work in a few days.

Of the twelve thousand workmen usually employed in the industrial establishments of Cincinnati, only five per cent. are said to have lost their situations. Dayton and Columbus make a similar report. One of the newspapers says that this is a better statement than can be made usually at this time of the year.

The paper mill hands throughout Great Britain are all organized into trade unions, with a national board of officers, their headquarters being in Maidstone, Kent, we believe. Their rules and regulations are very strict. Every member is required to have a traveling card and certificate of membership, and the whole is a very close corporation. They have an emigration fund, and have sent out several members to Canada and the United States.

The superintendent of the rolling mill at Cumberland, Md., Thomas Venners, Esq., has notified the puddlers that those who do not intend to accept work at the reduced rates should call at his office at once, and they would receive the several amounts due them. In answer to this notification the puddlers immediately waited upon Mr. Venners in a body and received their pay, thus signifying their intention to stick to their demand for old prices, and accept the shut down rather than submit to the proposed reduction.

We are informed that the steamer Ohio, from Philadelphia to Liverpool, on her last trip took out 1,200 car-wheels. This, of course, is as yet a comparatively isolated case, but it has some significance. American car-wheels are acknowledged by some English makers to be of superior character, their excellence being attributed to the manufacturing establishments, and a want of industry on the part of the people, a great many of whom are engaged in criminal operations. There are, probably nearly 10,000 persons out of employment in those places.

The weavers in the Nimmahan Mills, Paisley, are upon the war path. The employers have reduced the wages, and the men not submitting to the law of circumstances, have refused to accept, and have thrown them selves out of employment. Two large meetings have been held, and strong resolutions adopted, adhering to the marked course and condemning those who have refused to join the striking combination. Forcible coercion has been used in one or two instances, but the prompt interference of the police authorities has checked the ardor of the malcontents, in this direction, and they have resorted to word arguments for safety. The employers are indifferent and will make no effort to effect a reconciliation or settlement.

Says the Reading *Times and Dispatch*: An almost inexhaustible bed of iron ore has lately been discovered on the property of Dr. Manoah S. Long, in Longswamp township, Berks county, and one mile southeast of Mertztown, and one and a half miles southeast of Topton. The doctor's property is situate in a beautiful valley at the foot of the so-called South Mountain. A small branch of the Little Lehigh passes through the property. The ore bed extends, on the doctor's property, over an area of some six acres. The quantity of ore, from present appearances, we are informed, is almost inexhaustible, and the quality of the best kind. Ore has also been found on the adjoining properties of Messrs. Hertzog, Fritch and others. Mr. Long intends to put up the proper machinery on his property, in the same valley, a little below the doctor's property. There is ore on this property covering an area of some thirty acres.

In referring to the recent reduction of ten per cent. on the wages of the employees of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company, the Mauch Chunk *Democrat* says: "We are afraid the company have acted injudiciously in this matter, as during the winter most of the hands employed on the road are exposed to all kinds of hardships and extra dangers, and earn their wages more fully than at any other season of the year. It is supposed that this reduction will be a saving to the company of about $30,000 per month, but past experience has proven that they will have to pay as much by collisions and smashups caused by the carelessness and indifference of employees who are obliged to work on reduced wages at a season of the year when the utmost caution and care has to be exercised to prevent casualties. The Central Railroad of New Jersey, who run side by side with the Lehigh Valley Railroad throughout the valley, still pay their hands at the rate heretofore, and it is just and fair that they should. The freights on everything remain unaltered, and the general necessities of life have not fallen below their usual prices, and consequently the employees are the only losers by this measure. We trust that the whole matter may be arranged satisfactorily to both the company and their men, and the fair name of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, which has always stood first for liberality, fairness and promptness, be kept untarnished."

The New York *Evening Post* thinks that there will continue to be added annually to the aggregate wealth of the Republic not less than fifteen hundred millions of dollars.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The Spanish question has got the rumoritis, says the Boston *Post*.

The Charge of the Light Brigade—It may be found on gas bills.

It has been discovered at Bloomington, Ill., that the air of a coal mine is a cure and preventive of whooping-cough, and the children of the miners, when attacked with that complaint, are taken down into the shaft, and in a short time are entirely recovered.

Dr. Burdon-Sanderson, in making some experiments on the electrical phenomena which accompany the contraction of the leaves of a sensitive plant, found the currents produced are subject in all respects to the same laws as those of muscles and nerves.

There are said to be between 10,000 and 12,000 laudanum drinkers and opium eaters in the poor districts of New York city; and what is worse, the vice is growing rapidly.

A genteel-appearing loafer addressed an insulting remark to a married lady in Troy the other evening. She had a pail of yeast in her hand, and answered his impertinence with a dash of the lively liquid, which covered him from head to foot.

The Chicago and Alton Railway Company has distributed 1,500 shovels at the stations along its lines to be used in cleaning the track of snow.

They have a new way of "caring for the widows" and widowers in Hollandtown, Wis. Having eleven resident widows and as many widowers, a committee arranged to marry them, pairing them off by lot. The drawing took place on Monday of this week, and eleven marriages are expected to take place this winter.

It is suggested that while the present style continues, ladies should remove their hats at lectures, concerts and other places of amusement, that persons sitting behind may not have the view of stage and platform obstructed by headgear.

The assessed valuation of real and personal property in Wisconsin for purposes of taxation for the year 1873 is reported at $340,620,252, of which amount lands comprise $173,722,348, city and village lots $86,283,561, and personal property $80,613,943. The State indebtedness, bonded and otherwise, amounts to $2,252,057, as d the indebtedness of counties in addition to $2,715,670.

Philip Smith lived near Keithsburg, Ill., in a little hut with his wife and her sister. He became the father of ten children, of whom Mrs. Smith was the mother of five and the sister-in-law the mother of the others. In fact, the little ones resembled five pairs of twins. The grand jury thought Mr. Smith's practices were bigamous, and now he, together with his sister-in-law, is in jail, and his wife and the children are in the poor house.

The counsel fees in a bankruptcy case which has been on the docket of the United States Circuit Court in Milwaukee for a long time, were recently cut down by two judges at different times $9,415 and $6,000 respectively. The worthy judges thought the fees excessive, and the number of counsel employed too numerous.

The Graphic balloon was not such a failure as at first sight it seemed. The effects of its Canadian voyage to Europe have not all yet been light, for in Litchfield, Conn., there was a deaf and dumb man who upon seeing this immense gas bag, uttered the word "balloon" for a starter, and has been glibly talking ever since.

The fund for a testimonial to the officers of the Tornado has reached $2,200 in Havana. Let some one over here start a burial fund for Burriel, and see how rapidly the funds will flow in.

Goldsmith's "Deserted Village" finds a counterpart in Middleford, Sussex county, Delaware. With the best water power in the State, it used to contain flourishing mills, and ship flour and corn-meal to Europe. The machinery has long been idle, and the thirty houses have for years been given over to bats and owls.

STATE NEWS.

General N. P. Banks will lecture in Mercer on the 23d inst.

Attempts at incendiarism have set the people of Mercer to talking about night police and street gas lamps.

A Mercer county youth, arrayed in his best apparel, started to see his sweet-heart recently and thought to beguile the weary way thither by chasing what he took to be a rabbit. His good clothes were buried quite hurriedly, the next morning, and the youth's mother declares he shall not sleep in the house till "that pesky smell" wears off.

Messrs. Gamewell, Gardiner & Burns have contracted with the Harrisburg Council for the introduction of the American fire alarm and police telegraph for $10,000.

There are numerous cases of small-pox in Fairfield.

The Rev. Father Hunt, of Wilkesbarre, an eloquent apostle of temperance, celebrated his eighthieth birthday recently.

The storekeepers of Slatington have suffered very severely through the failure of the American Slate Company. The employees of that corporation not having been paid for a considerable time their store bills cannot be met, and the merchants who have been supplying their families have to lose.

One of Charles R. Buckalew's Fishing Creek (Columbia county) constituents went to market, the other day, with a wagon load of hickory nuts. When ask how he sold them, he said: "Two dollars a bushel, or twenty-five cents a peck." Of course everybody bought by the peck; and when the creeker discovered his blunder, his language was not scriptural.

The daily prayer meetings in Lancaster are thinly attended.

The Reading *Times and Dispatch* denies that the project to build a railroad from Phœnixville to Springfield, on the line of the Wilmington and Reading road, and thence to Lancaster, has been dropped.

While the Rev. Jacob Wicklein and a companion were trying to dislodge a rabbit from beneath an old tree, near Port Clinton, Schuylkill county, on the 12th inst., the tree broke into three pieces, one of which fell upon the two named gentlemen, injuring him so badly that he died within three minutes.

Officers of the law are after Thomas Moore, brother of Mike Moore, hanged last year, at Ebensburg, for murdering his wife. It seems that Thomas attacked and nearly killed a boy with whom he was working in a coal mine.

Progress is still being made on the Perkiomen Branch of the Reading Railroad. It is expected that the section of the upper end, near Emaus, will be completed in a week or ten days.

In the neighborhood of Hammerly Park, eleven bears have made their appearance in three days' time. Four of these were killed, and the farmers and boys were, at last accounts, on the mountains looking for the others. One of the bears was killed by a man who waded into a stream and [illegible] amid the shouts of men and boys, and the cries of frightened women and young girls.

A Berks county lyceum has discussed the Spanish unpleasantness, and decided in favor of war. Secretary Fish and that other fellow after having gone to considerable trouble to get things for peace, will regret to hear of this decision.

Mr. Elam Guldin, of Oley township, Berks county, has absconded, leaving behind him liabilities exceeding $35,000. He is nearly up to the spirit of the age.

The Norristown *Herald* says: "The whole line of the Reading Railroad, and every station thereon, from Philadelphia to the coal regions, has for the last few days been closely watched by a whole corps of detectives who board and pass through the cars at almost every station. One man was arrested at Bridgeport on Tuesday, but the detectives are, we learn, not quite satisfied as to the cause of this extraordinary vigilance."

S. G. Morrison, Esq., of Williamsport, has brought suit for libel against Col. L. L. Tate, editor of the *Sun and Democrat*, of that city.

Mr. Charles Schnider, Grand Tyler of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, A. Y. M., died on Friday evening, at about nine o'clock, of congestion of the brain, at the Bingham House, Philadelphia, where he had resided for some time past.

Some of our tobacco-growers, says a correspondent of the Lancaster *Inquirer*, are actively engaged at stripping tobacco. The yield of this year was remarkably productive, and favorable prices are anticipated. It is claimed by a great portion of the people in this region that Mount Joy township has produced a superior quality of tobacco, not only in size, but in flavor, and the yield to the acre.

A farmer's boy in Bradford county has killed seventeen skunks, this year.

Over thirty Welsh families of Tioga county are on their way to Europe.

A special telegram from Susquehanna Depot, under date of the 12th inst., says: Seventy children attending school at Oakland, a little village near here, had a narrow escape from suffocation from coal gas on Tuesday morning. The presence of the poison in the air was not known to the teacher until about seven o'clock, when the smaller children began to drop from their seats to the floor, where they lay unconscious. The teacher then, greatly alarmed, announced the dismissal of the school; but not over half the scholars could get out of their seats, and the remainder rapidly fell into unconscious ness. As quickly as possible they were dragged into the air and laid on the ground. A few of them revived on getting into the air, but twenty-five remained unconscious. A physician was summoned, who succeeded, after long and persistent efforts, in reviving all of them. One little girl was three hours insensible. If they had remained in the schoolroom but very little longer half of them at least would have been past all relief. Several are yet very sick from the effects of the gas. The foul air was driven into the room by the stove-pipe having by some means been jammed against the back of the chimney, preventing draught.

POLITICAL.

General.

The Albany *Argus* says that the Democratic party now moves abreast of the living issues of the day. It must make the "living issues" feel "demition moist" and uncomfortable to be traveling with company so recently risen from the dead.—*Brooklyn Argus.*

The embarrassments of the Democracy in consequence of its caucus action on back pay, and the nomination of Fernando Wood, continue. The Albany *Evening Journal* now comes out with the charge that the *World* printed one edition on the 3d of December containing an editorial denouncing Fernando Wood, the greater part of which was carefully suppressed. In the edition generally circulated the place of this editorial on Mr. Wood was supplied by musical and dramatic matter.

Mr. Poland's effort in the House of Representatives to cast ridicule on the movement for the repeal of the salary increase is ill-timed. The people are not in the humor to enjoy his wit. Neither are they disposed to put up with shuffling or evasion. The people have only contempt now and rods in pickle for the future.—*Louisville (Ky.) Commercial.*

The Rochester *Express* puts it in this way: "Certain Democratic papers are now publishing their representatives in Congress under the designation of "The Forty Thieves." Isn't it fortunate that they are in the minority? A party that will send "forty thieves" to Congress, and name Fernando Wood for Speaker, evidently is not reformed enough yet to be trusted."

It's about time for the Congressional salary-grabbers to stop whining about the persecutions of the newspapers. They know mighty well that the subscribers to the newspapers will go for them at the polls if they don't repeal the grab law. The press of the country has simply uttered the public judgment on the measure—nothing more.—*St. Louis Democrat.*

The characteristics of the political parties as illustrated by the course of their representatives in Congress, are briefly summarized by the New York *Times* as follows: "The Democrats have promised a great deal more than they have performed. The Republicans are performing more than they have promised."

When the President told the colored men that if a Civil Rights Bill was not passed, it would be "because some extreme measure will be urged by a person claiming to be a particular friend of the colored man," he gave Mr. Sumner a mild return for the epithets the Senator has so freely lavished on the Executive, who, of the two, has been the truest friend